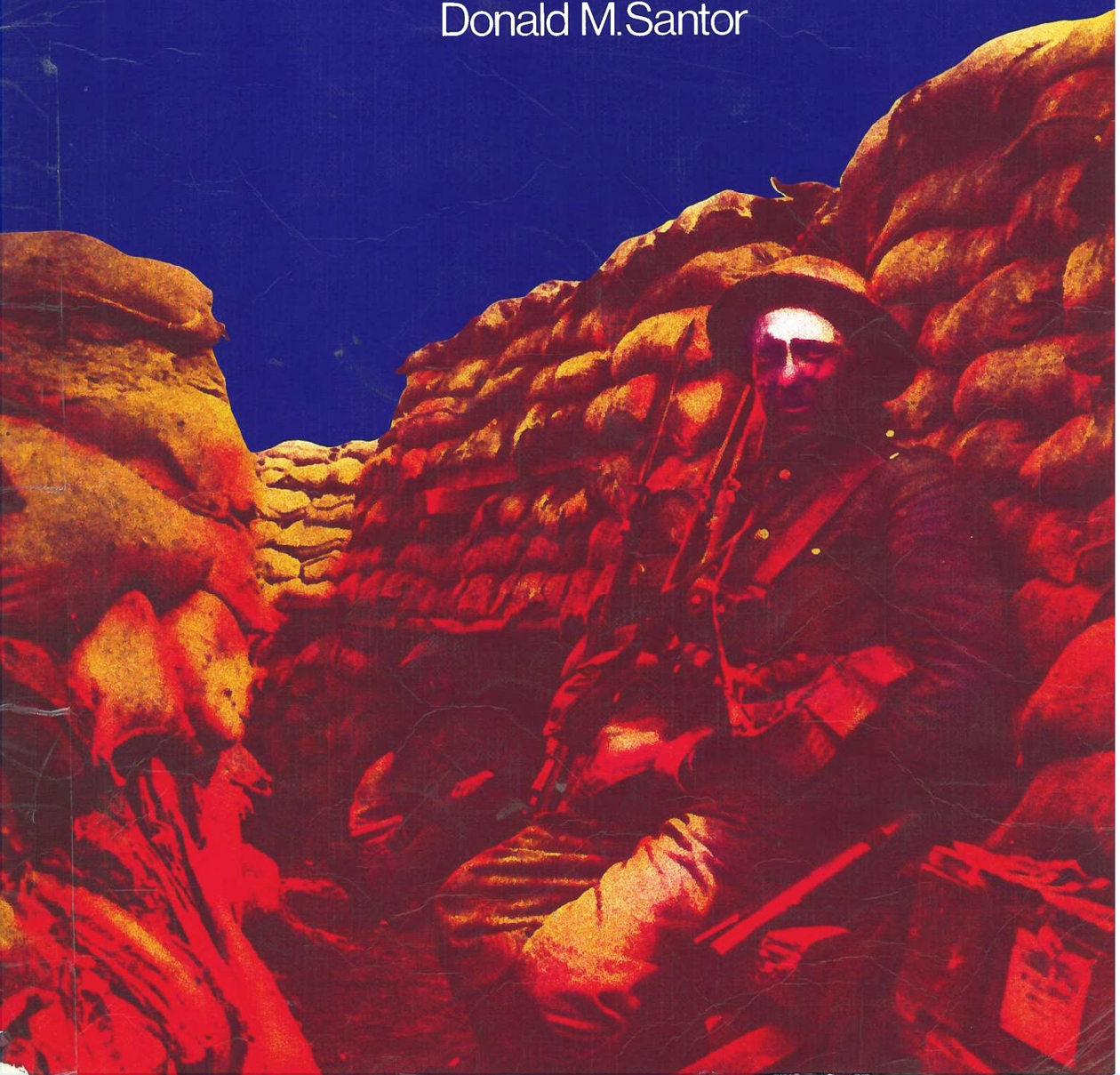
CANADIANA SCRAPBOOK

# CANADIANS AT WAR 1914-1918

Donald M. Santor



## Introduction

The First World War is the story of millions of men and women living and fighting in conditions that test the human spirit, not simply the story of great men directing great battles. It is the story of unprecedented human suffering and death as well as victory and glory. This book is a record of the thousands of people who responded to the jubilant call to arms and encountered the agony of war on the Western Front. The triumph of Vimy Ridge and the tragedy of Passchendale, along with the rats, mud and lice of the trenches, are significant elements of their story. The problems of mobilizing the homefront in support of the war effort are as much a part of the conflict as the soldier himself. The war did not end with the armistice in 1918, it carried on in the lives and minds of the thousands of survivors who returned home broken in body and spirit.

The reality of this story is presented by integrating the photographic documents with the accounts of those who served. Only then can you see the war as the soldier did. Words alone cannot describe victorious Canadians at Vimy, mud at Passchendale, aliens interned in Western Canada, a happy POW, a circus entertaining troops behind the lines, a flattened city, women making guns and shells, or a limb-fitters shop in Canada.

To understand the war you should experience the battlefield, the life of the soldier behind the lines, and the homefront. This book integrates these three themes and invites you to follow the young men of Canada as they joined up, went off to the training camps and finally met the enemy on the battlefields of Europe. You will join the Canadian soldiers in the trenches where they lived for over four years, assault the enemy across no man's land where certain death awaited them and then retire to the rear where recuperation and recreation occupied their time before they re-entered the lines. A visit to the casualty clearing station for medical aid and the limb-fitter's shop for an artificial limb for the stump of an arm or leg will complete your journey.

On the homefront you will help drum more men into the forces, participate in the efforts to raise money to pay for the war, and respond to the patriotic appeal to eat less bacon and sugar and more corn meal mush.

This book tells the story of Canadians at War 1914-1918.

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*Darcy, Garth and Eric*

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# CANADIANS AT WAR 1914-1918

DONALD M. SANTOR
*London Board of Education*

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THE PROPERTY OF
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HIGH SCHOOL

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**British Ultimatum! War is Declared. Hell's Let Loose!** *Ottawa Free Press*, 4 Aug. 1914

On the night of August 4th Great Britain declared war on Germany. Canada was first officially declared to be at war on the 5th day of August, when the Governor-General-in-Council issued a document concerning enemy merchant ships which began thus:

"Whereas a state of war now exists between this country and Germany."

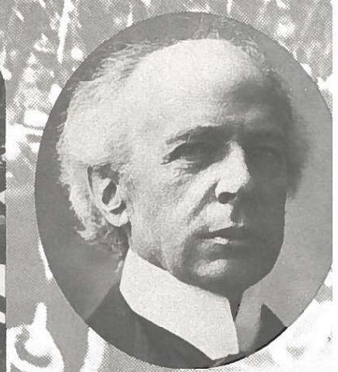
T. H. Russell, *The World's Greatest War*, p. 9

"Upon this occasion we invoke the blessing of God, not the God of battles, but the God of justice and of mercy, and it is with an ample trust in Providence that we appeal to the justice of our cause... Even those who on principle do not believe in war admit that this was a just war, and that it had to be fought."

*Sir Wilfrid Laurier.* *House of Commons, 19 August 1914*

# The Call to Arms

Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia, hoped for 25 000 men. By the time the first volunteers had mustered at Valcartier, over 33 000 had joined up.



*Sir Wilfrid Laurier*

Famous Canadians who served overseas: John Diefenbaker, Lester Pearson, Grey Owl, A. Y. Jackson, Robert Service, Norman Bethune, Conn Smythe, Tom Longboat, Brock Chisholm, Frederick Banting, Raymond Massey, John McCrae.

## *Kerosene Soaked German Kaiser Is Burned in Effigy in City*

**Vast Crowd Gathers Near the Hotel Vancouver and Starts a Huge Bonfire.**

An effigy of Emperor William, fully uniformed in the garb of the war lord of Germany, was burned at 10:15 last night on the vacant lot across from the Hotel Vancouver, while a crowd of hundreds, attracted to the spot by the firing of giant crackers and torpedoes, cheered wildly.

The orchestra at the hotel had just finished playing "Rule Britannia" a few minutes before. A group of enthusiastic Britons who had conceived the idea of burning the war lord in effigy, started with their dummy down Granville street. Two of them, supporting the figure, rushed down the street and anon a great crowd was in hot pursuit, not knowing what was up. The supporters of the figure kept ahead, though had the race gone another block they would have been overtaken. They rushed their figure to a tripod ready for it, and it was but a moment when the kerosene-soaked emperor was a figure which stood out in almost perfect distinctness; while the flames licked it into a distorted heap. Strings of firecrackers hung around it cracked with the staccato reports of artillery, while the crowd danced and hooted.

*Vancouver Sun*, 6 Aug. 1914, p. 11

*Many people predicted the war would be over by Christmas. It would simply be a matter of six weeks' autumn manoeuvres with live ammunition.*

Twenty-two volunteers were chosen and on Friday, August 14th, clad in their red tunics, blue trousers and white helmets, they marched to the railway station, led by the officers who carried their unsheathed swords. They were supported by "C" and "G" Companies of the 35th Regiment, the Citizens' Band and the Collegiate Cadets Bugle Band. They were followed by the fire brigade and a large number of autos and horses and buggies decorated with flags. It was a gala event. The women of the town presented $80 to the contingent, and the Council the next day presented each man with $10 and each officer with $15. The war, of course, would be over in three months. These men probably would not see action. Nevertheless, it was a great demonstration of Orillia's support of the Empire. War was still a chivalrous, romantic thing; the Battle of Mons was still ten days away. The awful casualties of modern warfare were not even suspected. After the speeches, as the train was about to pull out, Band Master Mitchell ordered his band to play "God Be With You Till We Meet Again." With this a hush fell over the crowd. Perhaps, after all, this was serious business. Both soldiers and citizens seemed to be affected for a few minutes. However, the enthusiasm soon again prevailed. The band struck up "The Cock o' the North," the Simcoes' regimental march, and the train pulled out amid the farewell cheers of the huge crowd.

L. M. Frost, *Fighting Men*, pp. 24-25

*Sir Robert Borden*

"As to our duty all are agreed, east and west, and shoulder to shoulder, with Britain and the other British Dominions in this quarrel. And that duty we shall not fail to fulfill as the honour of Canada demands. Not for the love of battle, not for the love of conquest, not for the greed of possessions, but for the cause of honour, to maintain solemn pledges, to uphold principles of liberty, and to withstand forces that would convert the world into an armed camp, yes, in the very name of the peace we sought at any cost, save that of dishonour, we have entered into this war."

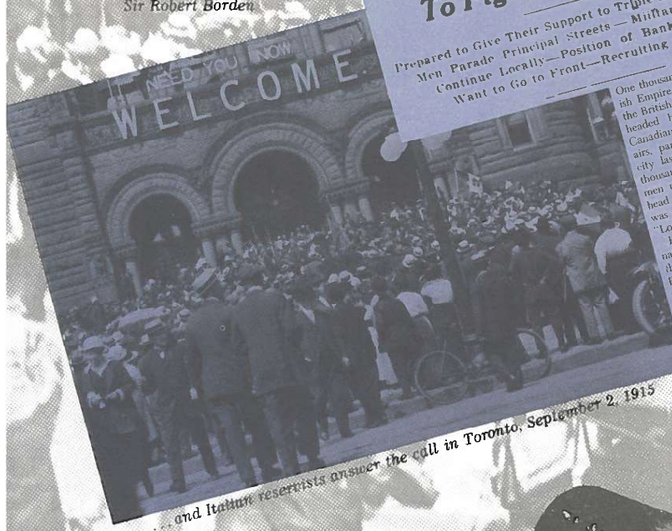
*Sir Robert Borden, House of Commons, 19 August 1914*

## *Italians in Vancouver Ask That They May Be Allowed To Fight for Great Britain*

Prepared to Give Their Support to Triple Entente—Thousand Men Parade Principal Streets—Military Preparations Continue Locally—Position of Bank Clerks Who Want to Go to Front—Recruiting Still Active

One thousand Italians loyal to the British Empire, carrying aloft side by side the British Jack and the Italian flag and headed by a band playing British, Canadian, Italian and French national airs, paraded the main streets of the city last evening between avenues of thousands of cheering citizens. The men marched four abreast and at the head of the procession a large banner was carried bearing the inscription "Loyal Italians of the British Empire." Each man carried a small flag of his native country and continuously during the parade cheered for the British Empire, Canada, France and King George. A great multitude of men, women and children congregated at the corner of Georgia and Granville Streets gave the Italians a most enthusiastic reception as the parade swung past.

*Vancouver Sun*, 14 Aug. 1914, p. 2




*...and Italian reservists answer the call in Toronto, September 2, 1915*

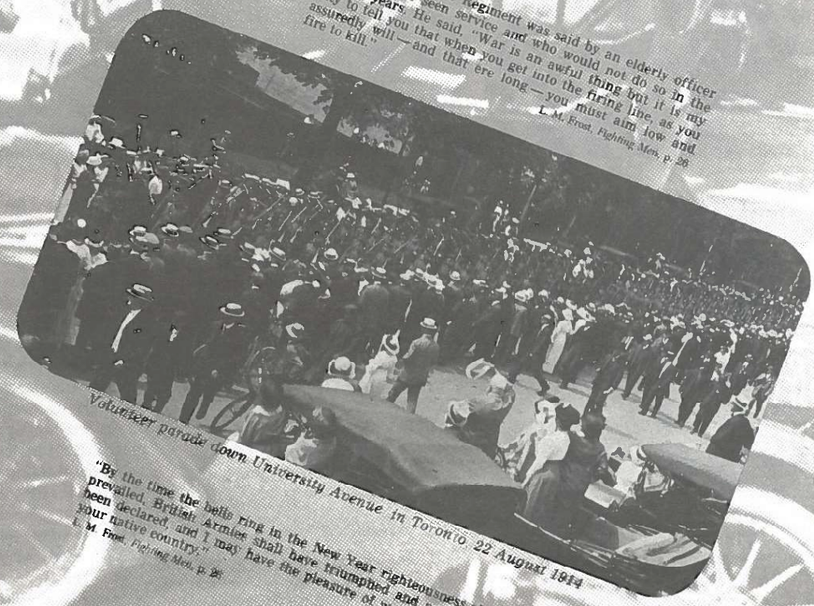
**Canada's military readiness in 1914**

| | |
|---|---|
| Population | 7 500 000 |
| Army | 3 110 |
| Sailors | 350 |
| Battleships | 0 |
| Cruisers | 2 |
| Submarines | 2 |

*Charlie Potts From Bear Island, Timagami*

The farewell for the Regiment was said by an elderly officer who had never seen service and who would not go so in the ensuing years. He said, "War is an awful thing but it is my duty to tell you that when you get into the firing line, as you assuredly will — and that ere long — you must aim low and fire to kill."

L. M. Frost, *Fighting Men*, p. 26



*Volunteer parade down University Avenue in Toronto, 22 August 1914*

"By the time the bells ring in the New Year righteousness shall have prevailed, British Armies shall have triumphed and peace shall have been declared and I may have the pleasure of welcoming you back to your native country."

L. M. Frost, *Fighting Men*, p. 26

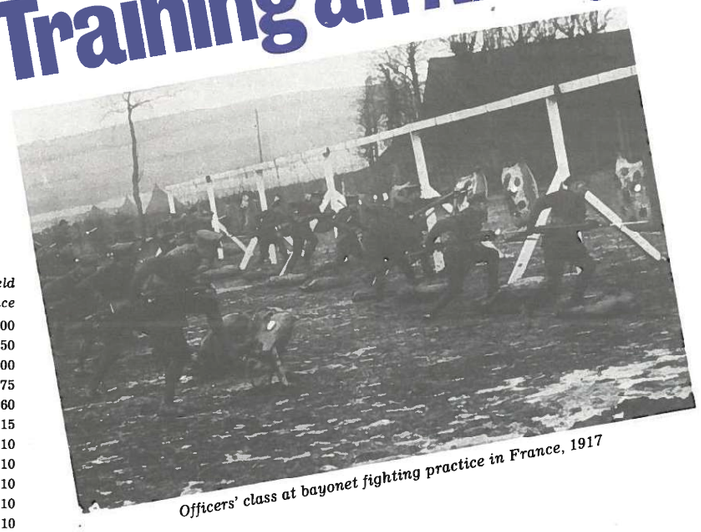
*Mayor of Barrie, 1914*

# Training an Army

The Canadian Officers Training Corps was established in 1914 in the universities to train young men as officers for the Canadian Army.

"The aim of military training in wartime is to make one so fed up that they would prefer to go to the front and get shot."

OPA A-2 A Christmas Garland



*Officers' class at bayonet fighting practice in France, 1917*

**Rates of Pay in the Canadian Army — 1917**

| Rank | Daily Rate | Field Allowance |
|---|---|---|
| Major-General (Div.) | $20.00 | $4.00 |
| Colonel | 6.00 | 1.50 |
| Major | 4.00 | 1.00 |
| Captain | 3.00 | .75 |
| Lieutenant | 2.00 | .60 |
| Sergeant | 1.35 | .15 |
| Corporal | 1.05 | .10 |
| Bugler | 1.00 | .10 |
| Private | 1.00 | .10 |
| Gunner | 1.00 | .10 |
| Sapper | 1.00 | .10 |
| Driver | 1.00 | .10 |
| Drummer | 1.00 | .10 |
| Cook | 1.00 | .10 |

PAC 1917 4573

**Rules for Medical Examination: 1917**
Principal points in medical examination of recruits.

- — sufficiently intelligent
- — speech is without impediment
- — chest is capacious
- — heart and lungs are sound
- — limbs are well formed
- — free and perfect motion of all joints
- — between ages of 18 and 45
- — at least 5 feet in height for infantry, 5'4" for artillery corps
- — chest measurement 33" if 18 to 30 years, 34" if 30 to 45 years
- — men may be accepted if one or two toes missing as long as great toes are intact
- — can hear ordinary voice at 15 feet in each ear.

PAC 1917 4586

**Some general grounds for rejecting a recruit.**

- — tubercular disease
- — palpitation of the heart
- — under standard vision
- — pronounced stammering
- — varicose veins
- — chronic ulcers
- — defective intelligence
- — abnormal spinal curvature
- — traces of corporal punishment
- — deformity of chest or joints
- — hernia
- — inveterate cutaneous disease

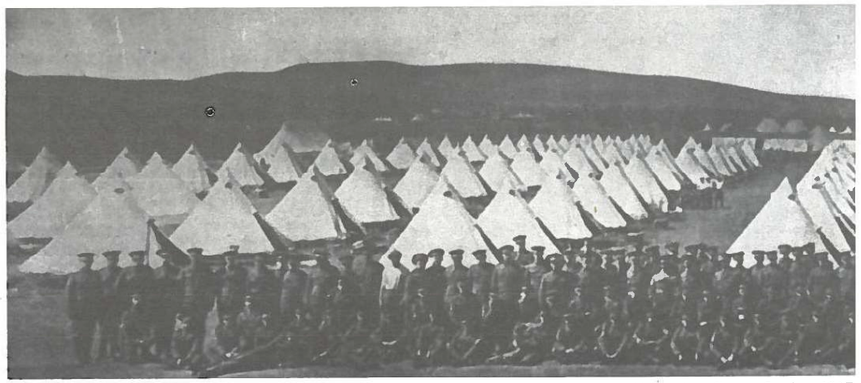
PAC 1917 4586

**Ethnic Battalions**

| | |
|---|---|
| French Canadian | 11 |
| Scot Canadian | 28 |
| Irish Canadian | 4 |
| Scandinavian | 2 |
| Indian | 1 |
| American | 5 |

**Enlistment in the different units of the Canadian forces.**

| | |
|---|---|
| INFANTRY | 235,604 |
| ARTILLERY | 37,741 |
| CAVALRY | 7,268 |
| ENGINEERS | 29,259 |
| SIGNALS | 4,391 |
| CYCLISTS | 1,138 |
| RAILWAY | 22,801 |
| PAY | 1,541 |
| CHAPLIN | 442 |
| NURSES | 2,411 |
| MILITARY POLICE | 222 |
| VETERINARY | 1,479 |
| ORDNANCE | 1,250 |
| SERVICE CORPS | 14,030 |
| POSTAL | 352 |
| FORESTRY | 22,905 |
| LABOUR | 5,533 |
| DENTAL | 882 |
| MEDICAL | 15,929 |
| GYMNASTIC | 391 |
| IN TANKS | 1,812 |
| MACHINE GUN | 16,315 |



*Valcartier Camp, Quebec 1917*

**TABLE OF MARCHES.**

| | Time per minute | Pace |
|---|---|---|
| Quick march | 120 paces | 30 inches. |
| Double march | 180 paces | 40 inches. |
| Side step | 120 paces | 14 inches. |
| Step short | 120 paces | 21 inches. |
| Step out | 120 paces | 33 inches. |
| Forming fours: | | |
| Rear or forward | | 30 inches. |
| Right or left | | 27 inches. |

*Infantry Training* 1915, p. 7

**SALUTING.**

The salute is performed by bringing hand smartly, with a circular motion, to brow, palm to front. Forefinger one inch above right eye, elbow to right.

A soldier will salute with hand farthest away from person saluted.

An officer will salute with right hand only.

Saluting is one of the courtesies of military life and should be carefully observed by all ranks.

A salute should always be acknowledged by a return salute.

*Infantry Training 1915*, p. 7

**GAMBLING FORBIDDEN.**

All gambling in garrisons, camps, cantonments or billets is forbidden.

**WINES AND SPIRITS.**

The introduction of wines and spirits into quarters is forbidden. Soldiers should try and avoid their use. Officers should not enter a bar-room in uniform, and non-commissioned officers and men should be discouraged from doing so.

*Infantry Training 1915*, p. 4

## Valcartier: The Ideal

As soon as the policy of the Government had been ratified, General Hughes devised and ordered the establishment of the largest camp that had ever been seen on Canadian soil. The site at Valcartier was well chosen. It lay some sixteen miles to the west of Quebec, within a day's march of the gathering transports. The soil was, in the main, light and sandy, and a river of pure water was available. Yet the work of adapting this virgin soil to military purposes was enormous, and the transformation, effected within a fortnight by an army of engineers and workers, a remarkable triumph of applied science. Roads were made, drains laid down, a water supply with miles of pipes installed, electric lighting furnished from Quebec, and incinerators built for the destruction of dry refuse. A sanitary system, second to none that any camp has seen, was instituted. Every company had its own bathing place and shower baths; every cookhouse its own supply of water. Troughs of drinking-water, for horses, filled automatically, so that there was neither shortage nor waste. The standing crops were garnered, trees cut down and their roots torn up. A line of rifle targets 3½ miles long – the largest rifle range in the world – was constructed. Three miles of sidings were run out from the wayside station, and a camp telephone exchange was quickly put in working order.

M. Aiken, *Canada in Flanders*, p. 5

**Canadians Serving in the First War**

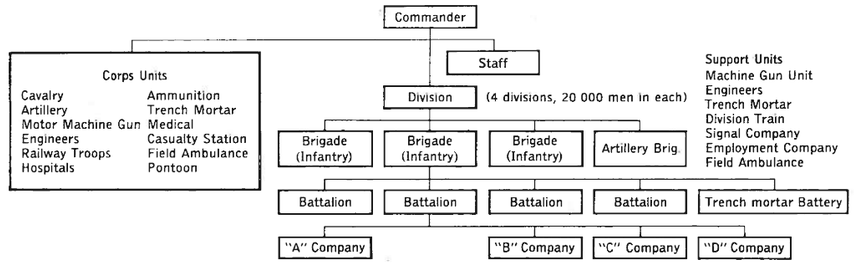
| | |
|---|---|
| Canadian Expeditionary Force | 418,052 |
| Royal Air Force | 21,169 |
| Canadian Expeditionary Force in Canada | 36,553 |
| On harvest leave without pay | 15,405 |
| Rejoined British and Allied Units | 14,590 |
| Leave of absence for hardship and compassionate reasons | 7,216 |

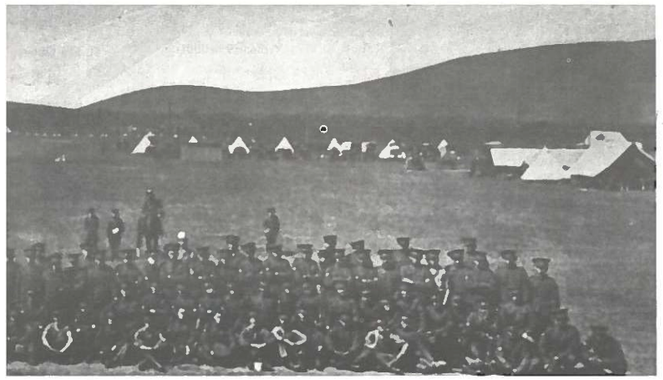
OPA 1919 7

Two sets of cases were extremely difficult to deal with: the one where a man was excessively anxious to enter the service, and the other where he desired to leave it. Men with impaired vision or even with one glass eye succeeded in passing the test by learning the letters on the chart as if they were a formula in algebra. A man who claimed that he suffered from night blindness was difficult to contradict.

A. Macphail, *History of the Canadian Forces*, p. 28

ORGANIZATION OF THE CANADIAN CORPS



## Valcartier: The Reality

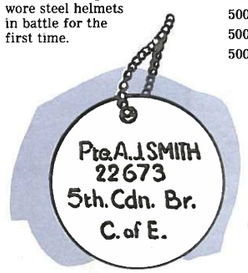
The men were without adequate tentage and without great-coats in the autumn frosts and rain; the horses were without coverings. Catarrhal conditions developed. The Jacques Cartier river which flowed through the camp became polluted; swift precautions were taken; there was no epidemic of typhoid; only one case developed before England was reached. This method of concentration bore heavily upon the medical services. The officers were suddenly faced by forty thousand men for whom sanitary arrangements were required if epidemic sickness was to be avoided. Each recruit must be examined in a confused camp rather than in the peaceful leisure of his native town, where the established standards should have been applied . . . But at Valcartier military training in a general sense was negligible. The time was occupied in organizing and re-organizing, issuing clothing and equipment, examining and inoculating recruits, writing new attestation papers, and preparing for reviews.

A. Macphail, *History of the Canadian Forces*, pp. 20-22

It costs $155.00 to outfit a soldier to serve in France.

PAC 1918 4696

On April 4, 1916 Canadian troops wore steel helmets in battle for the first time.




*Brass Name Plate or Tag*

The total weight of a soldier's pack including clothing, arms, ammunition, tools, toilet articles, rations and water is approximately 60 pounds.

The object to be aimed at in the training of the soldier is to make him, in mind and body, a better man than his adversary on the field of battle. Fitness for war is the only thing that counts, and every soldier should school himself to keep this constantly in mind.

Discipline is the living force which turns a crowd of men into an army. It is absolutely necessary for the efficiency, safety, and comfort of all ranks. The essence of discipline is instant and cheerful obedience, not only to commands given by word of mouth, but to all rules and regulations duly issued by proper authority.

*What Every Soldier Ought to Know*, p. 4

Tom Perkins had just been rejected at the recruiting office because his teeth were not in the best of form.

Inspector: I am very sorry but with your teeth in that condition I cannot pass you.

Tom (angrily): Why not? They are the same teeth you passed my brother with yesterday.

OPA A-1-2 The Record

**What 500,000 soldiers need**

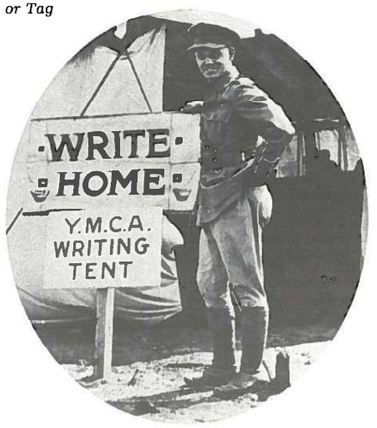
| | |
|---|---|
| 400,000 | rifles and bayonets |
| 4,000 | machine guns |
| 1,100 | field guns |
| 80,000,000 | cartridges for each battle |
| 1,250,000 | shells and shrapnel per hour |
| 100,000 | horses |
| 65,000 | mules |
| 4,000 | wagons and trucks |
| 500,000 | first-aid packets |
| 500,000 | canteens |
| 1,000,000 | uniforms — coats, breeches, puttees underwear, belts |
| 500,000 | caps |
| 500,000 | steel helmets |
| 500,000 | gas-masks |
| 1,000,000 | pairs of leather boots |
| 500,000 | pairs of rubber boots |
| 500,000 | haversacks |
| 500,000 | rubber ground-sheets, to keep them dry |
| 1,000,000 | blankets |
| 2,000,000 | pairs of socks |
| 500,000 | lbs. of meat per day |
| 500,000 | lbs. of bread per day |
| 250,000 | lbs. of vegetables per day |
| 1,000,000 | pints of tea or coffee per day |
| 500,000 | cups |
| 500,000 | plates |
| 500,000 | knives |
| 500,000 | forks |
| 500,000 | spoons |

PAC 1918 4696 The Canadian War Thrift Book

**Troop Movements to Europe**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1914 | 30,999 |
| 1915 | 84,334 |
| 1916 | 165,553 |
| 1917 | 63,536 |
| 1918 | 73,630 |
| Total | 418,052 |

OPA 1919 7




*Camp Borden, 1916*

# The Course of the War

Canadian Engagements

Major Battle

Mons

Casualty Figures in Brackets

Tannenberg (Russia—100 000 POW's)

Marne

First Ypres

"And down all the roads from the front, on every day in every month of that first six months of war . . . come back the tide of wounded: wounded everywhere, maimed men at every junction: hospitals crowded with blind and dying and moaning men."

*British War Correspondent Philip Gibbs* A. M. Josephy, *American Heritage History of WW1*, p. 95

## 1915

Gallipoli

"At two or three places which I am forbidden to name corpses filled the Meuse until the river overflowed This is no figure of speech. The river bed literally was choked by the mass of dead Germans. The effect o our artillery surpasses even our dreams."

A. M. Josephy, *American Heritage History of WW1*, p. 185

After only five months of war the total number of dead, wounded and missing men exceeded 1,500,000.

A. M. Josephy, *American Heritage History of WW1*, p. 95

Second Ypres (95 000)

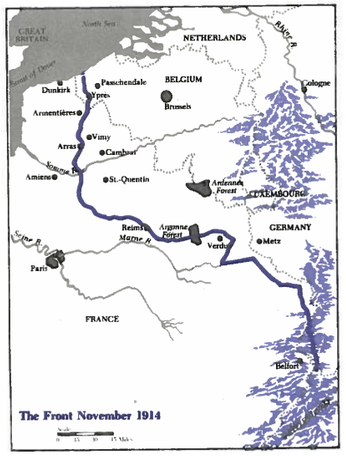
Second Artois (French—400 000)

Second Ypres (6 000)

Festubert (2 000)

Givenchy (900)

After two months of fighting and 200 000 casualties the British army had gained 200 yards.




## The Battle of the Somme July 1 to November 18, 1916

The artillery barrage before the infantry attack on July 1, 1916 which marked the beginning of the Battle of the Somme lasted for five days. In spite of it, the German defences were not destroyed. German soldiers emerged from dug-outs over forty feet deep to meet the British troops.

On July 1, 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme, British casualties totalled 57 470 the heaviest ever in the history of warfare for one day's fighting.

In spite of the heavy losses on the first day of battle Haig continued the attacks for 5 months. By the time the offensive was ended the British army (including the Canadians) had sustained 420 000 casualties.

During the 141 days of the Battle of the Somme the daily casualty rate of the armies involved was French. . . . 1 632 casualties per day, British. . . . 3 360 casualties per day, German. . . . 5 360 casualties per day.

"Humanity must be mad to do what it is doing. What scenes of horror and carnage! Hell cannot be so terrible." *French lieutenant, 23 May 1916.*

*The battlefield following a Canadian charge, 1916*

## 1916

Verdun (930 000)

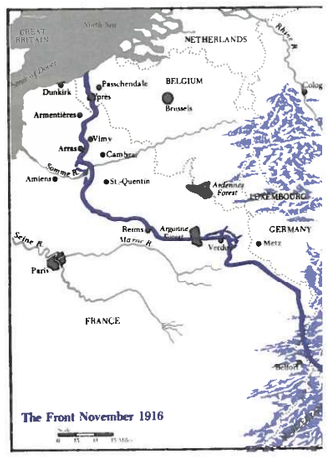
St. Eloi Crat

Mt S

Jutland

Brusilov (Russia—1 000 (

Somme (1 200 (




The presence of Canadian troops in the line because they were so often used as "shock" or "storm" troops to spearhead an attack was seen by the Germans as an omen of a coming attack.

**THE NATIONS THAT WENT TO WAR**

| Country | Area (sq. mi.) | Population | Army Strength Peace Time | Army Strength War Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Austria-Hungary | 241,491 | 50,000,000 | 426,000 | 2,000,000 |
| Belgium | 11,373 | 7,600,000 | 43,000 | 180,000 |
| France | 207,054 | 39,600,000 | 610,000 | 4,000,000 |
| Germany | 208,780 | 65,000,000 | 672,000 | 5,000,000 |
| Russia | 8,862,524 | 167,003,000 | 1,500,000 | 5,500,000 |
| Great Britain | 121,633 | 45,371,000 | 413,500 | 730,000 |
| Italy | 110,550 | 35,329,000 | 306,000 | 1,200,000 |
| Canada | 3,851,809 | 7,500,000 | 2,900 | 600,000 |

OPA 1914 12

*The results of heavy shelling*

Other bodies lie in absolute peace and serenity. Struck dead with a rifle ball through the heart or some other instantly vital spot. These lie like men asleep, and on their faces is the peace of absolute rest and relaxation, but of these alas! there are few compared to the ones upon whose pallid, blood-stained faces one reads the last frantic agony of death.

The soldiers themselves go on from battlefield to battlefield, from one scene of carnage to another. They see their regiments dwindle to nothing, their officers decimated, three-fourths of their comrades dead or wounded, and yet each night they gather about their bivouacs apparently undisturbed by it all. One sees them on the road the day after one of these desperate fights marching cheerfully along, singing songs and laughing and joking with one another. This is *morale* and it is of the stuff that victories are made.

T. H. Russell, *World's Greatest War*, p. 412

Sanctuary Wood

Somme (24 000)

Courcelette

Regina Trench

## 1917

Arras

Third Ypres (Br.—400 000)

Vimy Ridge (13 400)

Scarpe (14 000)

Hill 70 (10 000)

Passchendale (16 000)

Cambrai

Caporetto (Italy—300 000)

For every square mile won by the French and British armies at the Battle of the Somme in 1916 the casualty rate was 3 400 soldiers per square mile. The cost to the Germans defending was 3 700 soldiers per square mile.

September 15, 1916: First tanks used in the war.

**Estimated number killed during the First World War**

| | |
|---|---|
| Germany | 3,000,000 |
| Russia | 3,000,000 |
| France | 1,400,000 |
| Br. Empire | 1,000,000 |
| Austria-Hungary | 1,000,000 |
| Italy | 500,000 |
| United States | 81,000 |
| Turkey | — |
| Canada | 60,000 |

Estimated total killed, died from disease, starved 12,000,000 to 15,000,000.

R. P. Reeder, *Story of the First World War*, p. 9

*I don't suppose there is any place on earth in quite such a mess as the surface of the earth surrounding Ypres. For over 6 miles in depth, the land is nothing but a sea of shell-craters, the majority of which are full of water. Live in this for a few days and you will begin to agree. "If this is what we are fighting for, for heaven's sake let's give it to Fritz and at the same time apologize for it being in such a mess."*

OPA 1918 33 *Letter from the front*

**COMPARISON OF WORLD WAR I TO OTHER WARS**

| War | Date | Length in days | Life lost | Cost in dollars |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Napoleonic Wars | 1793-1815 | 8,168 | 1,900,000 | 6,250,000,000 |
| U.S. Civil War | 1861-1865 | 2,456 | 656,000 | 3,700,000,000 |
| Franco-Prussian War | 1870-1871 | 405 | 280,000 | 1,580,000,000 |
| Boer War | 1899-1902 | 962 | 90,898 | 1,000,100,000 |
| Russo-Japanese War | 1904-1905 | 576 | 555,900 | 2,259,000,000 |
| First World War | 1914-1918 | 1,538 | 14,500,000 | 281,887,000,000 |

OPA

## 1918

Spring Offensive

"The world was drowning in the blood of humanity and no one could see an end to the slaughter."

L. Werstein, *1914-1918 W.W.I Told with Pictures.*

Amiens

Amiens (11 725)

Arras (11 000)

Arras

Canal du Nord (13 672)

Cambrai (18 000)

Valenciennes

Valenciennes (380)

Mons (75)

# Trench Warfare

"In our part of the trench there was a large barn, in which the Germans were at one end and our boys at the other."
OPA 1916 44

*By November of 1914 a system of trenches was established from the Swiss border to the North Sea. For the next three years of war the front line would not vary by more than 16 km at any point.*

When it rained, which it did a great deal, the water poured into the trenches and down into the dug-outs. Day after day, week after week, the men ate and slept, or crouched behind their rifles, in soaking wet uniforms. Often the water and the mud came above their knees. When shells landed near them they were half buried in mud. There was mud everywhere, thick, gluey mud, in which was mixed up all the ruin of the war, bits of trees and buildings and guns . . . and human bodies.

They could not keep warm and they could not keep clean. Their bodies crawled with lice, and rats swarmed everywhere. There was always plenty of food for the rats, for they fed upon the dead bodies. The men who died in no-man's-land could not be buried. It was not safe to go out and fetch them. And even the wounded could not always be brought to safety. The men in the trenches had to listen to the cries of their dying comrades. They had to smell the smell of blood and rotting bodies.

For the guns hardly ever stopped firing, day or night. High explosive shells fell upon the dug-outs and buried men alive. Shrapnel shells burst in the air, spraying their deadly splinters above the open trenches – the tin helmet was invented to protect men's heads against shrapnel. Machine-guns spluttered. Rifles cracked. There were many different noises at the front. Even more terrifying than the crash of the explosions was the noise the shells made as they flew through the air. The heavy shells rumbled like express trains. The smaller shells whined. The bullets whistled. The men learned to recognise the different noises and this often saved their lives.
R. Musman, *First World War*, p. 32

### Over the Top. . . .

"We were in our trenches at dawn when suddenly a most infernal din commenced. You never saw such a sight; you never heard such a noise. I heard one of my men say, 'This is the end of the world,' and I did not blame him for thinking so. We could see in the distance great masses of flame, earth and brick in great clouds of smoke, all ascending together as enormous shells screamed over our heads and burst among the German entrenchments and the houses of the village. At the end of a half-hour's bombardment the fire ceased as suddenly as it had begun.

"All this time we were awaiting the order to advance towards Aubers. At length we jumped out into the open. The air seemed alive with bullets and shells. There was a buzzing noise, such as you hear in a tropical forest on a hot summer day. On we moved, until we came to an open stretch, which was being swept by an infernal shell fire. We crossed this in rushes to gain the shelter of a few houses, losing some 40 or 50 men. There we remained for some little time, reforming the battalion and awaiting further orders. When these came we moved forward over rough, open ground, coming upon lots of our poor fellows lying dead. They were from the only battalion which had preceded us.

"Then we entered the German trenches which had been captured. Again we halted. All this time our shells, German shells and rifle and machine gun bullets were shrieking overhead.

"Thank goodness, in an action like this you seem to lose your senses! A kind of elevation above all ordinary feelings comes over you and you feel as though you were rushing through air. There is so much to frighten you that you cease to be afraid. Then your senses gradually come back. That is why all infantry attacks should be carried through with one overwhelming rush."
T. H. Russell, *World's Greatest War*, p. 405

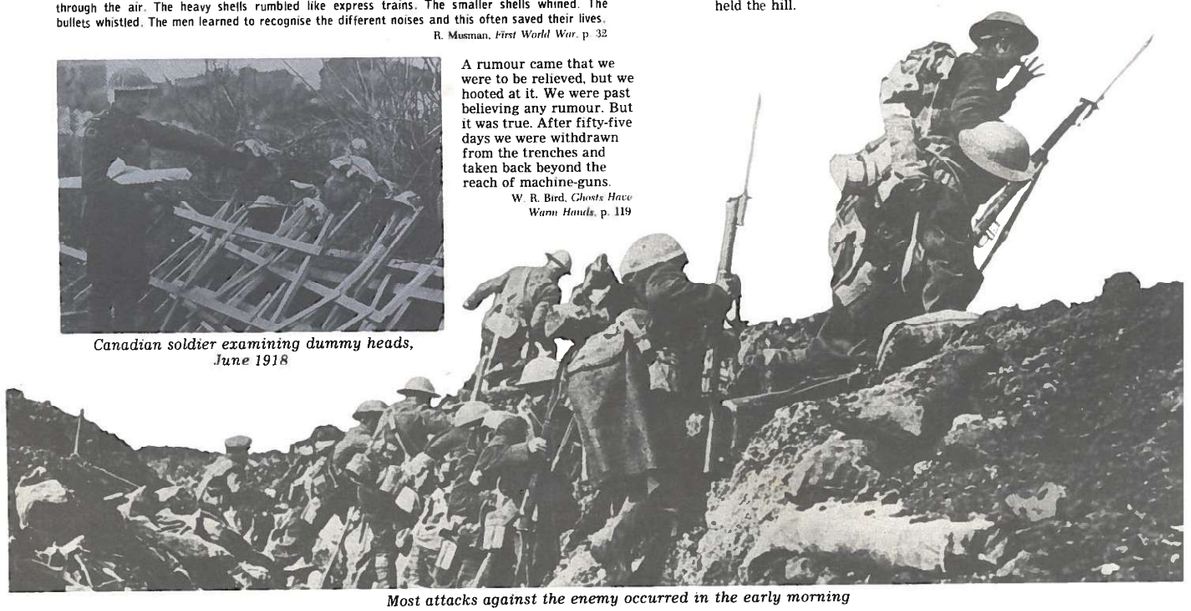
Following the Canadian capture of Hill 70 on August 15, 1917, the enemy counterattacked 21 times during 4 days and 3 nights. The Canadians held the hill.

After putting up a splendid trench during the night, he (the enemy) will pound it to pieces in the morning.



*Canadian soldier examining dummy heads, June 1918*

A rumour came that we were to be relieved, but we hooted at it. We were past believing any rumour. But it was true. After fifty-five days we were withdrawn from the trenches and taken back beyond the reach of machine-guns.
W. R. Bird, *Ghosts Have Warm Hands*, p. 119



*Most attacks against the enemy occurred in the early morning*

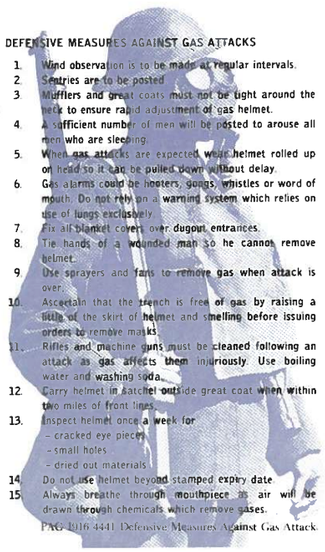


### A Gas Attack

Gas was used for the first time on October 27, 1914 by the Germans when they fired 3,000 gas shells into Allied lines. Its first effective use did not occur till April 22, 1915 at the Second Battle of Ypres. With an east wind blowing toward the French and Canadian lines, 5,000 chlorine gas-filled cylinders were opened causing panic in the lines.

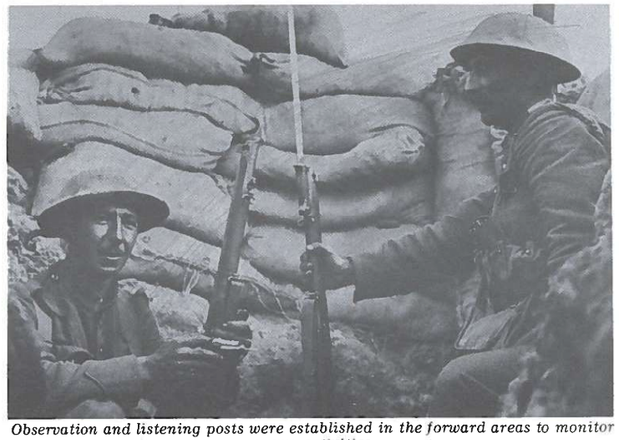
. . . . running blindly in the gas-cloud, and dropping with breasts heaving in agony and the slow poison of suffocation mantling their dark faces. Hundreds of them fell and died; others lay helpless, froth upon their agonized lips and their racked bodies powerfully sick, with tearing nausea at short intervals. They too would die later — a slow lingering death of agony unspeakable . . .

The whole air was tainted with the acrid smell of chlorine that caught at the back of men's throats and filled their mouths with its metallic taste. Behind the gas-cloud came the advancing hordes of Germans, under cover of a violent artillery fire.


DEFENSIVE MEASURES AGAINST GAS ATTACKS
1. Wind observation is to be made at regular intervals.
2. Sentries are to be posted.
3. Mufflers and great coats must not be tight around the neck to ensure rapid adjustment of gas helmet.
4. A sufficient number of men will be posted to arouse all men who are sleeping.
5. When gas attacks are expected, gas helmet rolled up on head so it can be pulled down without delay.
6. Gas alarms could be hooters, gongs, whistles or word of mouth. Do not rely on a warning system which relies on use of lungs exclusively.
7. Fix all blanket covers over dugout entrances.
8. Tie hands of a wounded man so he cannot remove helmet.
9. Use sprayers and fans to remove gas when attack is over.
10. Ascertain that the trench is free of gas by raising a little of the skirt of helmet and smelling before issuing orders to remove masks.
11. Rifles and machine guns must be cleaned following an attack as gas affects them injuriously. Use boiling water and washing soda.
12. Carry helmet in satchel outside great coat when within two miles of front lines.
13. Inspect helmet once a week for
– cracked eye piece
– small holes
– dried out materials
14. Do not use helmet beyond stamped expiry date.
15. Always breathe through mouthpiece as air will be drawn through chemicals which remove gases.
PAM 1916 4441 Defensive Measures Against Gas Attack.

As I pitched downward, my steel helmet struck a strand of barbed wire that spanned the trench. The helmet saved my face on the right side, but not on the left. There the long barbs of German wire tore the skin above my eye, ripping to the bone. I landed with a crash but was not otherwise hurt. W. R. Bird, *Ghosts Have Warm Hands*, p. 126

By the end of the war 79 000 were killed from gas and almost 1 000 000 were wounded.



*Observation and listening posts were established in the forward areas to monitor enemy activities*

### How long in the trenches?

The men in the firing and supporting trenches exchange places every forty-eight hours. After a four days' spell they all retire for four days' rest, fresh troops taking their places as they move out. At the end of their four days' rest they return again to the trenches. All relieving movements are carried out in the dark to avoid the enemy's rifle fire. M. Aitken, *Canada in Flanders*, p. 15

**BARB WIRE ENTANGLEMENTS.**

**How Soldiers Overcome These Defensive Obstacles.**

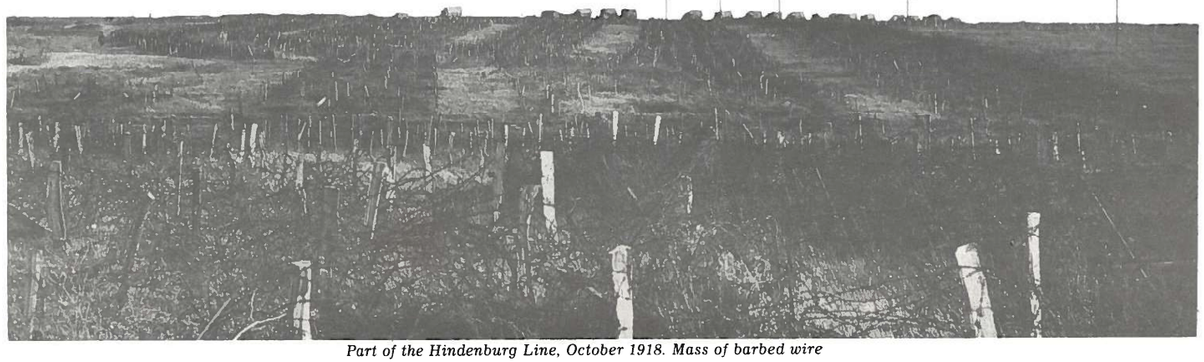
As has been learned from the reports from the war, barb wire entanglements have been freely resorted to by both sides for protecting their positions, and in a general way it is known that these consist in a number of irregular lines of strong posts set solidly in the ground with a maze of lines of barbed wire strung between them; but how these obstacles are overcome has been left for explanation to a military expert who has an interesting story to tell in the Scientific American. Some of the many schemes that have been tried are described as follows:

Experiments have been made in removing whole sections of wire at once by means of a rake, to which a wire rope is fastened. This is thrown over an obstacle, and thirty men pull upon the rope. Thus a section eleven and one half feet wide and sixteen and one half feet deep is torn out. In order to reduce the time required to pass through a barbed trap (the glint of the wire is usually concealed by a bank of earth) some military engineers have thought that it is a waste of precious minutes to cut or tear it down, and that it is more rational to surmount the obstacle in some way. Structures of boards, ladders and bags should be thrown over the wire, according to their ideas, and upon the pinstorm thus made the men can press forward. Boards eight feet long, nine inches wide and three-quarters of an inch thick, are fastened together by means of three cross pieces, leaving a clear space of three inches between the boards. The weight of the double board is thirty-two pounds, and sixteen of them are employed, each carried by a single man. To place the sixteen double boards on the wire net requires about one hundred and forty seconds, as actual tests have shown, and it takes seventeen men sixty seconds to pass over the boards. As a time saving-expedient, therefore, the method is hardly a success over that of wire-cutting.

Nor are ladders much better. In some experiments, conducted in England ten ladders with nine rungs each were used. Each ladder, twelve feet long and twenty-two inches wide, weighed thirty-two pounds, and was carried by a single man. The ladders were laid down in one hundred and forty-five seconds, and sixty-five seconds were required by seventeen men to pick their way from rung to rung.

That this idea of surmounting an obstacle rather than cutting a way through it is not practicable, is better shown by the experiments which have been made with bags of cloth and wire. Twelve bags each eight feet long and four and one-half feet wide (measured empty) and weighing forty pounds when filled with straw, were placed upon a net in ninety-five seconds, and seventeen men passed over them in forty-five seconds. When the bags are made of wire poorer results are obtained. Such bags are composed of two pieces of wire meshing, eight feet long and four and one-half feet wide, laid on top of each other and placed together at the sides with wire. A quantity of straw three inches thick is pushed into the wire bag, which then weighs only twenty pounds. It takes ninety seconds to lay sixteen of these bags on a barbed wire entanglement, and it takes seventeen men sixty-five seconds to pass over them.

*Aylmer Express*, 12 Dec. 1914, p. 10



*Part of the Hindenburg Line, October 1918. Mass of barbed wire*

# Passchendale:

## All British Objectives On Passchendaele Ridge Won by Canadian Troops

Sebate Reading Hist. 1-1-13

**General Currie's Men Are on the Outskirts of the Village of Passchendaele and They Are Holding Their Ground.**

**FIVE DESPERATE ATTACKS BY TEUTONS BEATEN BACK**

**In Spite of the Marshy Nature of the Ground and Bad Weather Conditions Important Progress Is Made by Troops**

LONDON, Oct. 30. — The British troops in Flanders carried out successful operations today, according to Field Marshal Haig's report tonight. The Canadian troops gained all their objectives on the Passchendaele ridge and beat off five hostile counter-attacks.

The text reads: "Successful operations with limited objectives were carried out by us early this morning against German positions between the Ypres-Roulers railway and the Poelcapelle-Westroosebeke road. In spite of the marshy nature of the ground on the greater part of the front attacked and notwithstanding heavy rain and gales which made communication with our troops extremely difficult, important progress has been made.

**Canadians Advance.**

"On the right of the attack, in spite of fierce opposition, the Canadian troops gained all their objectives on the main ridge and have reached the outskirts of Passchendaele. The fighting was most severe on the spur west of the village, where five hostile counter-attacks were beaten off by our troops. Captured German machine guns were used effectively in repulsing the attacks.

*Vancouver Sun*, 31 Oct. 1917

There are three things out here that are hard to get accustomed to, they are: filth, mud and hostile shells. We live in daily contact with all three and do not find that we like any of them any better.

This war goes on day and night, week in and week out. It is continuous for over two hundred and fifty miles on this front alone. We fight on the earth, in the earth, under the earth and in the air overhead. Rifles, machine guns, field guns, heavy guns, bombs, grenades, poisonous gas, etc., etc., are all employed. Sometimes the noise is terrible. One of our chaps in writing home dated his letter "Somewhere in Hell." He was not far out. *Aylmer Express*, 20 Jan. 1916

They lived in mud and were wet from mud; they lived in unutterable filth, breathing an air that choked the lungs with disgust, their young bodies attacked by vermin, their feet sinking into squalor, their hands touching at every turn things which one dare not speak about. And our people are the most domesticated in Europe; our climate has forced us into making indoor life the very heart of existence; and these young men were exiled from their homes, were forced to live almost entirely without the grace and charm and consolation of women, were obliged to herd together in great companies in a foreign country, and not only a foreign country, but a torn and blasted country from which the sulphurous flames of battle had scorched the leaf of the meanest weed.

There they lived, always in the presence of death, always in the midst of horror, always on a rack of torture, a rack which stretched and tortured not the muscles of the body but every nerve, and the whole mind, and the entire soul, and they endured. Yes, they endured, endured inexpressible agony with patience, even with humour, and at the end flinging themselves upon the enemy, they drove him headlong, they drove him out of the trenches, sent him flying, beat him, beat him to his knees. There has been nothing like this in the history of the world.

D. Lloyd George, *War Memoirs*, Vol. VI, pp. 3423-3424



There you came down from your post, chilled through, dazed from lack of sleep, and pushed your way into the crawled underground to your chicken-wire bunk. You could lie and eat your rations and consider yourself lucky if there was any lukewarm tea. The warmth of the men thawed the earth and chalk walls enough to make them ooze dampness. Rats were everywhere, pudgy brutes with ghoulish eyes. They crawled over you as you lay under a blanket and tried to shiver yourself warm.

W.B. Bird, *Chaps Have Want Hands*, p. 19



# A Muddy Nightmare

Over 4,000,000 shells were poured into German lines before July 31, 1917 which marked the beginning of the Battle of Passchendale. The artillery barrage which lasted 30 days dumped an average of 1,370 tons of shells per day on German lines for a total of over 45,000 tons. In comparison, the total of the shells fired at Waterloo in 1815 was only 37 tons.

The entire drainage pattern of the area was so disrupted that by the time the fall rains came the entire region was converted into a quagmire. The Canadian Corps was committed to the battle in October to seize the ridge of Passchendale, an almost impossible objective. OPA C-I-2

## TROOPS ARE ESTABLISHED IN NEW WON POSITIONS ON PASSCHENDAELE RIDGE

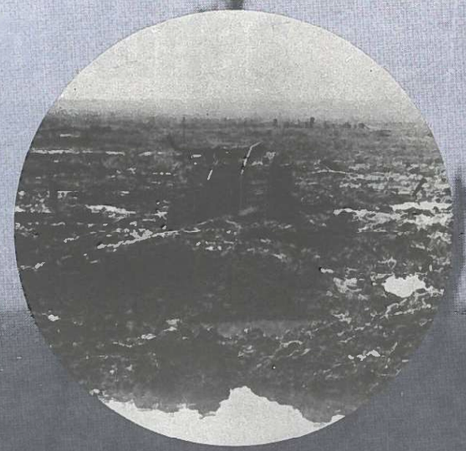
Sebate Reading Hist.

**Canadians Have Driven the Huns into the Mud of the Plains Below; Are Firmly Entrenched on Crest of Hill.**

**BRITISH MACHINE GUN FIRE WAS DESTRUCTIVE**

**Barrage Was Perfect, Causing the Enemy Heavy Losses; Captured Village a Mass of Ruins.** *Vancouver Sun*, 8 Nov. 1917

3 000 of the 16 000 casualties were sustained by the road building units.



Arguments which refute the need for the Passchendale offensive:

1. The French army had recovered from the mutiny and had just successfully attacked Verdun and captured 10 000 prisoners.
2. Currie argued that the October rains which turned the whole area into a bog made attack impossible for either side.
3. Poincare, the French president, inquired when the offensive at Passchendale would stop so that British troops could be given more of the line.
4. Currie protested against the attack on Passchendale adding that the expected cost of 16 000 casualties was too high—in fact the casualties were 15 584.

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Arguments which refute

# Life in the Front Lines

## The Soldiers' Diet: Three Views

What do our soldiers get to eat? The very best and most substantial food and plenty of it. The first item is meat—fresh or frozen. Each soldier is entitled to one pound every day. In addition, he is given four ounces of bacon, usually for breakfast. Fish, too, much of it from Canada, sausages from government-owned factories, and pork and beans, are issued to supplement the meat rations. Bread is, perhaps, next in importance. Of this each soldier receives daily one pound, or ten ounces of biscuit, or an equivalent ration made up of the two. Bread for the Canadian army is made at the base bakeries at Boulogne. These turn out daily 220,000 two-pound loaves, made from Canadian flour of the same quality as in pre-war days. Other items in Private Jack Canuck's daily bill-of-fare are: ten ounces of rice, two ounces of butter served three times a week, three ounces of jam, five-eighths of an ounce of tea or coffee, two ounces of cheese, two ounces of oatmeal three times a week, three ounces of sugar, one ounce of condensed milk, an ounce of pickles three times a week, two ounces of potatoes, eight ounces of fresh vegetables when obtainable, or two ounces of dried vegetables. Canada War Thrift Book: 1918. PAC 1918 4696

The food was monotonous and barely adequate—biscuit that had to be soaked in water before it could be eaten, tinned meat that was all too often tainted when opened. No attempts at all were made to achieve a diet that would give strength to the body. The cookhouse at the training camp near the Chateau de la Haie had a hard-tack biscuit nailed to the door over a sign that read: "A square meal." H. F. Wood, *Vimy!*, p. 47

Food in the trenches was always scarce; a day's ration was a tin of bully beef, hardtack, a billy-can of tea and possibly a sweet sticky mixture called plum and apple jam. The troops swore it was made of turnips and rhubarb. L. M. Frost, *Fighting Men*, p. 24

*Fresh vegetables were not always part of the diet*

The war changed men mightily. Down in dugouts where there was hardly room to breathe, men who had come from comfortable homes moved without complaint. All grousing was reserved for the "brass hats," who were supposed to be responsible for all that went wrong. The men were unselfish, each with a balance and discipline of his own. We endured much. Dugouts reeked with odours of stale perspiration and the sour, alkaline smell of clothing. There was never enough water to permit frequent washing and when we could get warm the lice tormented us. The vermin were in every dugout, millions of descendants of the originals of 1915. We seared the seams of our shirts with candles, fought them constantly but never conquered them. W. B. Bird, *Ghosts Have Warm Hands*, p. 19

**Suppression of Flies**

A fly lays between 100 and 150 eggs at a time, usually in horse manure. All horse manure should be collected and burnt in special incinerators constructed near camp.
PAC 1917 4583

## Rats. . . .

One night I was awakened by stiff whiskers on my face. I opened my eyes to see a large rat scanning me gravely. He backed off a trifle as I looked at him and pushed himself into the palm of my hand. The feel of his feet was revolting and I pitched the thing from me. My revulsion lent strength to the movement. The rat rose in an arc and descended head first straight into Thornton's open mouth. Its weight drove it in and Thornton's jaws closed convulsively. For a heartbeat there was a picture of the rat's hind legs kicking wildly, then Thornton put a hand each side of the rat and threw it across the dugout. The rat up and spat furiously, giving me a tug. I was almost strangling myself with mine but pretended to be stupid. 'What's up?' I asked.

"A rat—sfut—jumped—sfut—into my—sfut—mouth."

"You're crazy," I said. "They wouldn't."

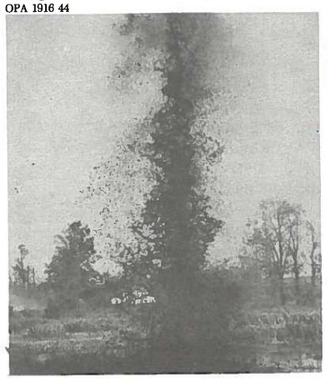
"But I'm—sfut—telling you they—sfut—did."

Soon he had everyone awake and was describing, with much spitting, how the horrible thing had jumped into his mouth. All hands asked questions and shook with laughter. W. B. Bird, *Ghosts Have Warm Hands*, pp. 120-121

Many times the Canadians took over front line trenches reeking from the stench of decomposing bodies of allied soldiers.

*A front trench line, September 191*

"Our company had a sickener of bully beef and another officer and I thought we would take a few bombs and go fishing. We threw our bombs and got twenty-seven fish."
OPA 1916 44



There were the usual lice—itchie-coos, the men called them—and rats which, gorged on human remains, grew to enormous size.

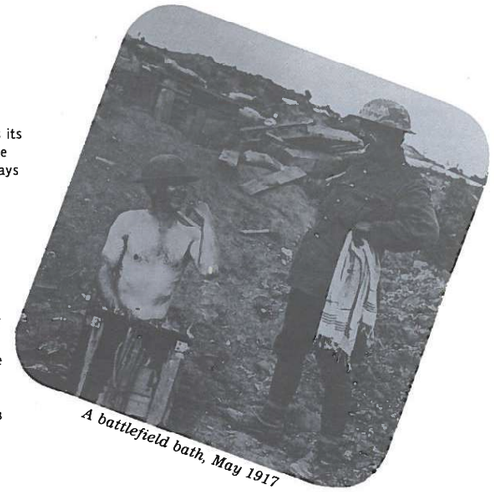
*Short hair served a useful purpose*

## . . . . and lice

**Extermination of Lice**

The body louse lives on clothes over the skin. It requires a meal of blood twice in 24 hours. It lays its eggs in the seams of clothing and retreats into the seams and folds after feeding. The female louse lays 6—7 eggs per day to a total of 295 and the eggs hatch in 3 days.

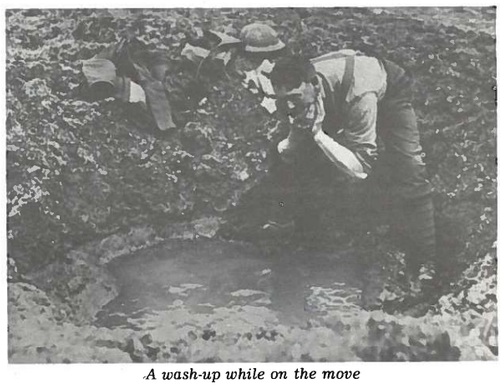
1. Change clothing as often as possible.
2. Keep verminous clothing away from an infested kit.
3. Lice die of starvation in a week's time in discarded clothes.
4. Brushing and ironing are the best means of destroying the eggs.
5. Badly infested clothes not needed should be burnt, buried or sunk in water.
6. The wearing of silk underclothes will prevent lice. PAC 1917 4583



*A battlefield bath, May 1917*

One of the more exasperating absurdities of dress was the kilt, and no fewer than eight Canadian battalions wore it with a fierce pride that made nonsense out of reality. Heavily pleated, the kilt was a happy haven for vermin. Made of coarse, unyielding wool, it could not be cleaned properly under battlefield conditions. On the march, when the kilted columns hunkered down for the ten-minute break that was decreed each hour, the garment picked up gobs of wet mud, which, when it dried, lacerated the calves of the marching legs. All men smelt in the line, but none gave off so basic an odour as a kilted Highlander. H. F. Wood, *Vimy!*, p. 48

*To pass the time Canadian soldiers often played black jack, spit in the ocean, poker, and seven-toed Pete. This game was played during a break in the action at Vimy, 1917*

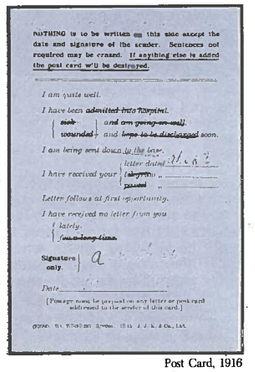


*A wash-up while on the move*

The complete efficiency of the men is largely due to the excellence of their food. The Army is, in fact, healthier than any other army that has ever faced war. Typhoid is almost unknown. The amazing record of health owes much to the sanitary precautions which are taken. One of the most remarkable of these is the system of hot baths and the sterilising of clothing.

Bathing establishments have been put up in various parts of the field, and the largest of them is in a building which, before the war, was a jute factory. Every hour of the day, successive companies of men have hot baths here. They strip to the skin, and while they wallow in huge vats of hot water, their clothing is treated with 200 degrees of heat, which destroys all vermin. M. Aitken, *Canada in Flanders*, p. 19

The 42nd Infantry Battalion consisting of approximately 1,200 soldiers received. . . 90,625 packages of cigarettes. 18,125 packages of tobacco. 11,800 plugs of chewing tobacco. 380 plugs of smoking tobacco. 223 pipes.
OPA 1919 13



NOTHING is to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

I am quite well.

I have been ~~admitted into Hospital~~ sick / wounded and am going on well / and ~~hope to be discharged~~ soon.

I am being sent down to the base.

letter dated 31.8.16

I have received your telegram / parcel

Letter follows at first opportunity.

I have received no letter from you lately.

~~I am a long time~~

Signature only. a

Date

[Postage must be prepaid on any letter or post card addressed to the sender of this card.]

Post Card, 1916

Please accept my many thanks. Chewing tobacco is the one thing men in this branch of the serivce will never say no to.

J. S. Brown
Captain
Forestry Corps
OPA 1919 13

*A Canadian tailor working outside his shop, September, 1917*

The second episode I would remember was the issuing of whale oil to rub on our feet. It came in jugs and was colder than ice. It would prevent trench feet. Orders were that every man should rub it on his feet once in twenty-four hours while we were in those winter trenches. I did so religiously and never had the least trouble. But we had a big chap who had blustered much until we were within sound of the guns. Then he had tried in every way to get from the front, going on sick parade, complaining of blindness, even trying to wound himself slightly. He had been caught in the act and warned of what his punishment would be, so he never used the whale oil, although the sergeant who made the nightly check was told he did. The result was that after two days his feet started to swell. It was learned later he had purposely walked through wet places and the cold had penetrated. His feet became so bad he could not walk and finally he had to be taken out on a stretcher. The last we heard of him was from a lad who had been to see him in hospital in England. Both feet were huge blobs of mis-shapen flesh. He could only move around on crutches and his feet would never be normal again. W. R. Bird, *Ghosts Have Warm Hands*, pp. 37-38

Stoppages of pay were made in the following cases:

1. Absent without leave.
2. In hospital for drunkenness.
3. In hospital with self inflicted wounds.
4. In custody for any offence against the Army Act.
5. In custody for drunkenness.
6. In hospital with venereal disease.

OPA 1917 4573

Canadians contributed funds to purchase tobacco products for soldiers in the trenches. Over a four year period the following quantities were sent overseas.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cigarettes | 25,630,850 |
| Plugs chewing tobacco | 551,400 |
| Plugs smoking tobacco | 123,310 |
| Pipes | 6,674 |

OPA 1919 13

*Free coffee in the front lines, March, 1917*

*The Chinese volunteers, organized into labour battalions, built roads, railways and gun emplacements. Here they are celebrating New Year's 1918, February*

*Tom Longboat, the well-known Indian long distance runner, buys a French newspaper*

In the absence of major engagements the troops spent the time maintaining trenches and breastworks that liquefied and dissolved in the rain. Water rose thigh-deep and the high rubber waders that had been ordered the year before did not arrive till the following spring, when the need was far less urgent. Illness was prevalent and the continual wetness induced a painful condition known as trench feet, similar to frost-bite. If neglected, it could turn to gangrene.

L. Worthington, *Amid the Guns Below*, p. 41

We have one or two cats in the trenches, which are very popular. OPA 1916 44



# A Soldier's Christmas


HAMPERS

for the boys at the front

**No. 1 for $2.50**

| | |
|---|---|
| 6 pkgs. Chewing Gum | 25c |
| 1 Pr. Leather Laces | 25c |
| 1 Shaving Stick | 25c |
| 1 Tooth Paste | 25c |
| 1 Tooth Brush | 25c |
| 1 Cake Soap | 15c |
| 1 Labardilla Powder | 25c |
| 2 Khaki Hdkfs. | 25c |
| 1 Pair Wool Gloves | 75c |
| | $2.65 |

**No.2 for $3.50**

| | |
|---|---|
| 6 pkgs. Chewing Gum | 25c |
| 1 Pr. Leather Laces | 25c |
| 1 Shaving Stick | 25c |
| 1 Tooth Paste | 25c |
| 1 Tooth Brush | 25c |
| 1 Cake Soap | 15c |
| 1 Labardilla Powder | 25c |
| 2 Khaki Hndkfs. | 25c |
| 1 Pair Wool Gloves | 75c |
| 2 Pr. Wool Socks | |
| 65c | $1.30 |
| | $3.95 |

**No. 3 for $4.50**

| | |
|---|---|
| 6 pkgs. Chewing Gum | 25c |
| 1 Pair Leather Laces | 25c |
| 1 Shaving Stick | 25c |
| 1 Tooth Paste | 25c |
| 1 Tooth Brush | 25c |
| 1 Cake Soap | 15c |
| 1 Labardilla Powder | 25c |
| 2 Khaki Handkerchiefs | 25c |
| 1 Pair Wool Gloves | 75c |
| 2 Pairs Wool Socks | $1.30 |
| 1 Wool Scarf | $1.00 |
| | $4.95 |

Any of these hampers, securely packed and delivered, express prepaid, to the front.

The Hudson's Bay Company

*Vancouver Sun*, 11 Nov. 1917


## Christmas: 1914

Soon the men at the front began to wonder if the war would ever end. Soon they ceased to have any enthusiasm for the fighting. They did not even hate the enemy. In fact on Christmas Day, 1914, British and German troops met in no-man's land and played football matches and talked about home and peace. Senior officers on both sides were worried about this and said that it must not happen again. For they were afraid that if the men got too friendly they would no longer want to go on killing each other. They need not have worried. The soldiers in all the different armies went on fighting and dying bravely even though they hated the war much more than they hated the enemy. R. Musman, *The First World War*, p. 34

*Christmas Greetings to the enemy: Special Delivery*

*The quantity of mail sent to the Canadian soldiers required a special unit to handle it*


"Last Call" for Overseas Christmas Parcels

If you haven't sent your Christmas parcel don't delay another day.

Both the Government and Red Cross have advised that, owing to transportation difficulties, this year's Xmas parcels should be forwarded much earlier than last year.

If you have sent your parcel, send "him" another box of cigarettes. Cigarettes are a necessity to the boys at the front. You can't send them too many.

Special Overseas Christmas Box, packed with individual packages of ten cigarettes each, and containing a label for convenience in addressing, can be secured from any tobacco shop.

*Boxes of Fifty Cigarettes - 50 cents*
*Boxes of Hundred Cigarettes - $1.00*

AT ALL TOBACCO SHOPS

*Vancouver Sun*, 12 Nov. 1917

## Christmas: 1916

Private Norman Keys (now a lawyer in Montreal) had gone to college in Germany before the war and spoke German. He and the battalion bomber sergeant arranged an armistice and we met the enemy in no-man's-land. They were surprised to see us with rubber boots, cigars and new clothes. It seemed to demoralize them. About ten that night the "Van Doos", who were on our left, raided the German trenches and stole all their Christmas presents and this ended the truce. H. F. Wood, *Vimy!*, p. 100


HE WILL LIKE A

Trench Talking Machine

SEND one of the Stewart Trench Talking Machines to the boy at the front. It has a reasonably clear tone; is made of metal and is round in shape. We pack them all ready to mail free of charge; weight, 7 lbs.

COME IN AND HEAR THEM. PRICE,

$8.50

Montelius Piano House, Ltd.

"The Big Victor Store."

524-528 Granville Street

Phone Sey. 874.

*Vancouver Sun*, 11 Nov. 1917

# Vimy Ridge: April 1917

Early in the war the German army fell back to Vimy Ridge when they failed to take Paris. There they established a defensive position which turned back a French assault in 1915. In spite of the 100 000 French casualties in 1915, the British tried unsuccessfully to take the Ridge in 1916. By 1917 the German hold on the Ridge was considered impregnable.

## The Preparations.....

*To ensure victory a constant supply of ammunition had to be guaranteed*

Twenty miles of railroad in the Corps' area, over which gasoline-driven locomotives or even mules drew light trains, were reconditioned and extended until eight hundred tons of ammunition, engineer stores and rations came forward every day. Push-trucks were assembled forward for the evacuation of wounded. Stokes mortar positions, and projectors that could toss gas drums almost a mile forward, were installed.

G. W. L. Nicholson, *Canadian Expeditionary Force*, p. 249

*A few empty crates and casing from the shells fired on Vimy Ridge, 1917*

Large dumps for the enormous quantities of ammunition to be expended in the preliminary bombardment and attack, and for other stores necessary for the assault, were prepared in good time by British and Canadian sappers assisted by labour units. Work was done at night. Roads and light railways for transportation were built in the Canadian forward areas. Twenty-five miles of road in all were repaired and maintained; three miles of new plank road were constructed, at which the Canadian engineers were particularly adept.

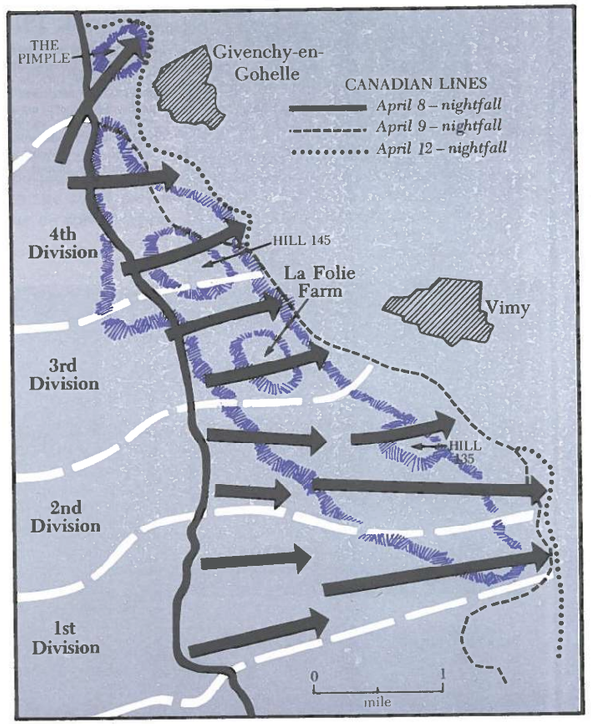
G. W. L. Nicholson, *Canadian Expeditionary Force*, p. 250

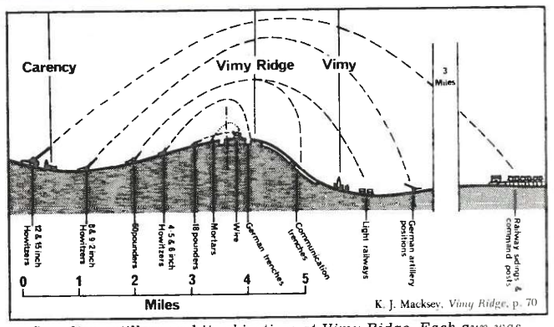
To guarantee contact between the front-line soldier and headquarters during the Battle of Vimy Ridge seven different systems were used.

1. Buried cable.
2. Telephone cable on poles.
3. Pigeons.
4. Morse code by power buzzers.
5. Wireless.
6. Visual signals—lamps, flags, flares.
7. Aircraft observation of ground flares. Messages dropped from plane.

It was necessary to bury telephone cables at least 6 to 8 feet below the surface to protect them from enemy shelling.

The tunnels which served Vimy Ridge were 20 feet below the surface, 6-7 feet high and 3 feet wide. They contained a light gauge railway, water lines, electrical lines, communication cables. To permit round-the-clock use they were ventilated with large fans.




K. J. Macksey, *Vimy Ridge*, p. 70

*Canadian artillery and its objectives at Vimy Ridge. Each gun was matched by range and nature to appropriate targets.*

**It had already been agreed that the preparatory bombardment would last two weeks, with intensity increasing for the last six days. Not all the guns would be employed on this. It was vital not to indicate the exact day of the attack, and the fire that came down on the German lines, dumps, guns and billets from March 20th onwards was calculated to destroy slowly and methodically without alerting the enemy to the likelihood of imminent attack and provoking him into moving his reserves forward. Wire was cut a bit at a time by big guns using the 106 fuse, while others fired thereafter just enough to make repairs impossible.**

H. F. Wood, *Vimy!*, p. 119



In its final form it would be a "rolling" barrage, a curtain of fire that would advance one hundred yards every three minutes until each objective was secure. Supplementing this, medium and heavy guns would bombard known enemy strong-points throughout the timed programme. All this was impressive enough; each enemy machine-gun, each steel cupola, each concrete emplacement would receive its share.

H. F. Wood, *Vimy!*, p. 123

## The Attack....

As they advanced a fireworks display of Very lights lit the sky; the enemy was signalling wildly for artillery fire. When it came, weak and desultory, it did little harm. The counter-battery programme had worked unbelievably well and the infantry passed over no-man's-land unscathed by shelling. Of the enemy batteries identified in those long months of preparation, eighty-three per cent had been silenced.

H. F. Wood, *Vimy!*, p. 137

Burgess was not so preoccupied with the advance that he could overlook what seemed, to him, to be a very funny incident: "There was a man struggling through the mass of rubble the same as the rest of us, when a 'whiz-bang' came over and drove into the ground right underneath him. The ground was so soft and the shell went in so far that when it exploded all it did was turn this man upside down, scattering his equipment and load around. He sat up and looked about him to see if anyone had noticed, got up, gathered up the scattered parts and started on his way again, evidently none the worse."

H. F. Wood, *Vimy!*, p. 147

Each "bayonet" man in the assault waves carried his instruments of war with him: a rifle and bayonet, 120 rounds of ammunition, two Mills bombs, five sandbags, forty-eight hours' hard rations, a waterproof sheet, a respirator, a smoke helmet, goggles, one ground flare and a filled water-bottle.

H. F. Wood, *Vimy!*, p. 130

Meanwhile, the infantry were on the move.

Out from the tunnels, over the parapets, into the torn landscape that was no-man's-land surged the assault waves. Each man knew his task, each had his section leader in his sight, and, as if in happy augury, the wire of the enemy positions had been cut. They could get through. The artillery had done its stuff.

H. F. Wood, *Vimy!*, p. 137

*Crossing no man's land during the battle*

# CANADA'S EASTER GIFT TO FRANCE

## The Victory.....

"Truly magnificent, the greatest day the Corps has ever had."
*Sir Arthur Currie, April 9, 1917*

Canadian successes at Vimy Ridge.

4000 prisoners taken
54 guns lost by the enemy
104 trench mortars taken
124 machine guns taken
3 mile penetration
Canadian soldiers killed—3598.

The resounding victory, the first in Britain's two and a half years of war, gave every man a feeling of pride, the more so because the long battle line to our right had failed. A national spirit was born, and now to be British was not enough; we were Canadian and could do a good job of paddling our own canoe.

L. Worthington, *Amid the Guns Below*, p. 5

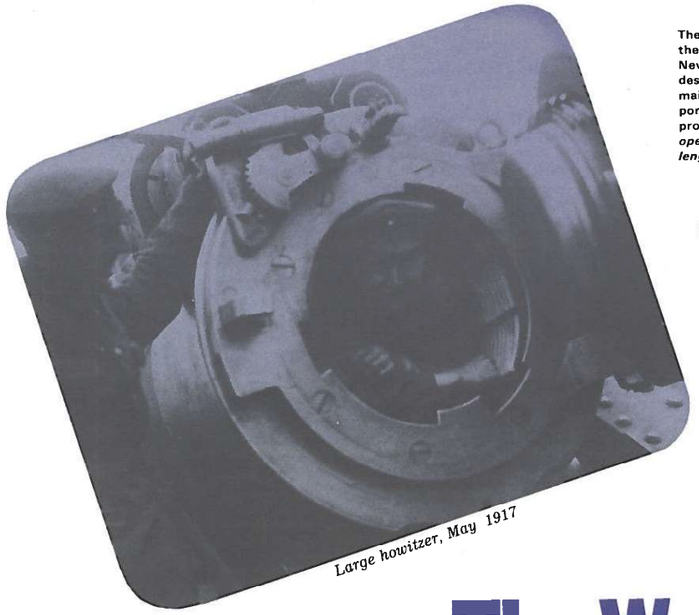
It had all happened so quickly. Questing Canadians, searching the dug-outs of the enemy for lurking snipers, found food on the tables, bottles of soda water and wine in the cupboards.

H. F. Wood, *Vimy!*, p. 160

*Victorious soldiers return from Vimy*

"I never felt like a Canadian until Vimy. After that I was Canadian all the way. We had a feeling that we could not lose, and if the other Allies packed it up we could do the whole job ourselves."

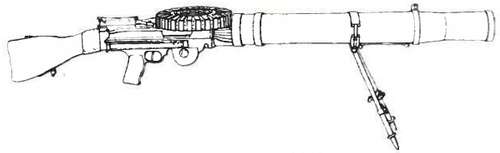
H. F. Wood, *Vimy!*, p. 164



*Large howitzer, May 1917*

**The Lewis Mk I light machine gun. This was the standard light machine gun used by the British army in the First World War. Designed by an American, Colonel Isaac Newton Lewis, the gun was not adopted by the US Army, so Lewis brought the design to Europe, where quantity production was initiated by the Belgians. The main advantages of the weapon were its light weight and consequently its portability. Its disadvantage was the relative weakness of the mechanism, and its proneness to stoppages when only slightly dirty. *Calibre:* .303-inch. *System of operation:* Gas, automatic only. *Weight:* 27lbs. *Length overall:* 50.5 inches. *Barrel length:* 26.04 inches. *Feed:* 47 round drum. *Muzzle velocity:* 2,440 feet per second.**

K. J. Macksey, *Vimy Ridge*, p. 46



The development of the 106 fuse enabled artillery to cut paths through barbed wire. The 106 fuse permitted the shell to explode on impact, thereby cutting the wire. Time fuses in use since the 19th century permitted shells to explode in the air and spray the entrenched soldiers with steel pellets. The 106 fuse was simply a mushroom cap with a small explosive behind it which speeded up the detonation of the main charge.

# The Weapons of War

The main task of a counter-battery was to destroy the enemy guns which would be used to shell attacking troops. To achieve this goal enemy guns would have to be located before the attack across no-man's-land was launched, Information was gathered from:

1. Aerial photography
2. Agents
3. Prisoners
4. Intercepted messages
5. "Flash Spotting" during the battle
6. Sounding

Factors to be considered by an artillery officer when aiming gun at target.

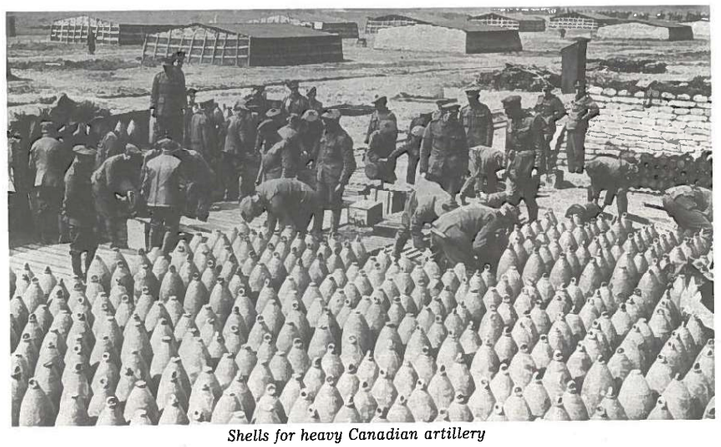
1. Temperature of air.
2. Temperature of charge.
3. Barometric pressure.
4. Velocity of wind.
5. Direction of wind.
6. Type of fuse.
7. Amount of wear of barrel.
8. Propellant for shell (cordite, ballistite).
9. Muzzle velocity.
10. Angle of barrel elevation.
11. Stability of platform.

OPA C21 McNaughton

**Slang names for enemy shells.**
Jack Johnsons
Weary Willies
Rum Jars
Tear Shells
Whizz Bangs
Gas Shells
Coal Boxes

The British 60-pounder gun, Mark I. Weight of shell: 60 lbs. Weight of carriage with gun: 58cwt 1 lb. Traverse: 4° left and right. Range: 10,300 yards. Rate of fire: 2 rounds per minute. Height: 6 feet. Width: 6 feet 6 inches. Length: 21 feet 7 inches.

K. J. Macksey, *Vimy Ridge*, p. 71



*Shells for heavy Canadian artillery*

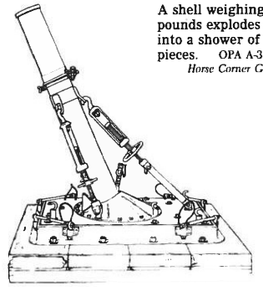
## Artillery Support for Infantry

Rolling barrage—a wall of exploding shells just in front of the attacking troops would keep the enemy confined to his trenches and he could not use his machine guns.

Box barrage—the attacking infantry would also have the line of exploding shells protect his flank as he attacked.

Counter battery—through observation balloons, airplane reconnaissance and listening devices the enemy guns would be located. When the infantry attacked, the counter battery guns would shell enemy guns to prevent them from being used against attacking troops. At Vimy Ridge the artillery knocked out 80% of the German heavy guns.

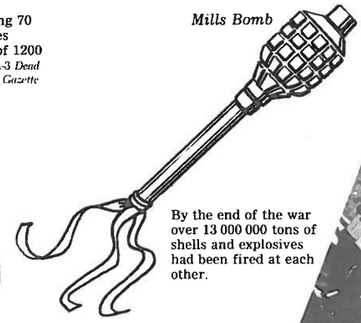




A shell weighing 70 pounds explodes into a shower of 1200 pieces. OPA A-3 *Dead Horse Corner Gazette*

British 6-inch trench mortar. Typical of the 'trench howitzers' the British 6-inch performed well, remaining in reserve stocks until the Second World War. Elevation and traverse are applied by operating the turnscrews on the barrel supports and the bomb was muzzle loaded. I. V. Hogg, *Guns*, p. 76

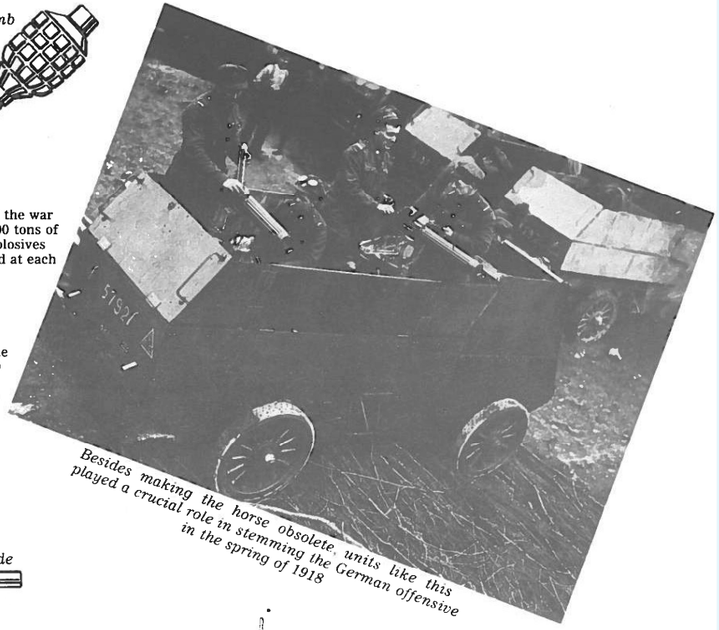
*Mills Bomb*



By the end of the war over 13 000 000 tons of shells and explosives had been fired at each other.

A typical shrapnel shell would explode just above the trenches spraying up to 300 lead balls, as well as fragmented shell casing, on the troops.

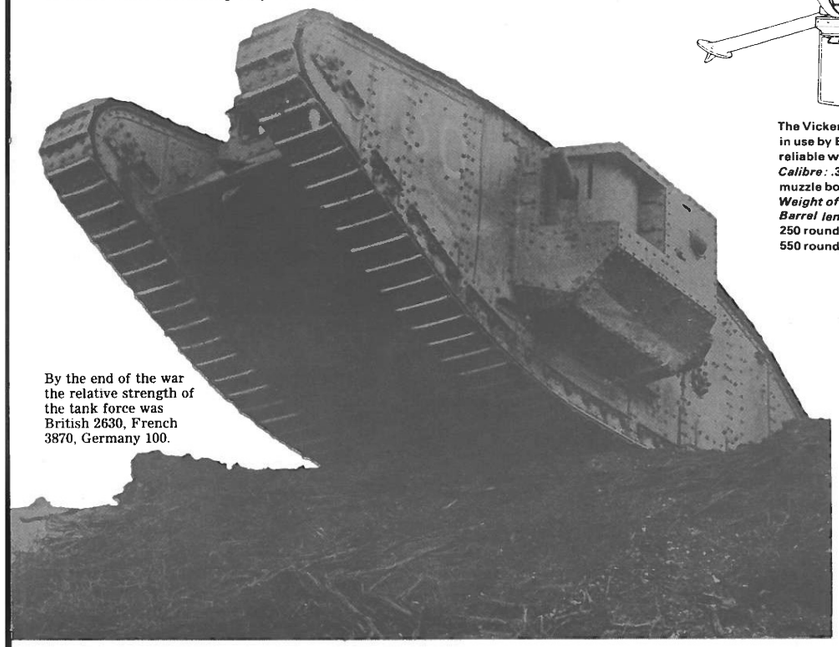
The daily ration of 7 rounds per gun per day in 1914 rose to 500 rounds per gun per day in the great artillery battles of 1918.



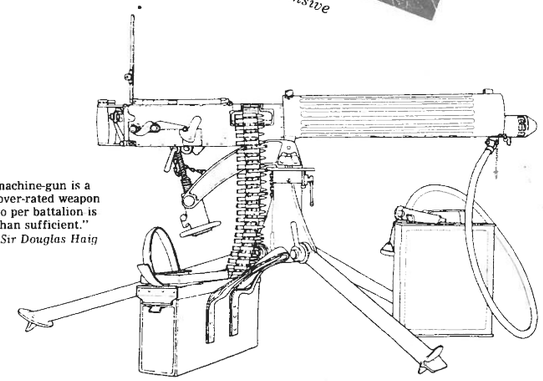
*Besides making the horse obsolete, units like this played a crucial role in stemming the German offensive in the spring of 1918*

*Rifle Grenade*

The modern tank traces its origin to designs submitted by Lt.-Colonel Ernest D. Swinton to the War Office in 1914. When his proposals were rejected by the army, Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, decided to proceed with the development of the "land ship" to be used to help naval personnel cross enemy defences in coastal areas. For two years the secrecy of the project was protected with the code word "tank", and finally on September 15, 1916 it lumbered into action at the Battle of the Somme. Shell craters, mud, and mismanagement contributed to their floundering, but on November 20, 1917 a massed attack of 400 tanks achieved a breakthrough at Cambrai of over 6 miles in only 12 hours while sustaining only 4000 casualties.



By the end of the war the relative strength of the tank force was British 2630, French 3870, Germany 100.



"The machine-gun is a much over-rated weapon and two per battalion is more than sufficient."
*Sir Douglas Haig*

**The Vickers .303-inch Machine Gun Mark 1 was the standard machine gun in use by British forces in both world wars, and was a sturdy (if heavy) and reliable weapon. It is shown mounted on a Mark IVB tripod. *Calibre:* .303-inch. *Method of operation:* Recoil with gas boost from a muzzle booster. *Weight of gun:* 33lbs (without water). *Weight of tripod:* 50lbs. *Coolant:* Water (7lbs in weight). *Length:* 43 inches. *Barrel length:* 28.4 inches. *Ammunition supply:* Canvas belts, each holding 250 rounds. *Muzzle velocity:* 2,440 feet per second. *Cyclic rate of fire:* 450-550 rounds per minute**

K. J. Macksey, *Vimy Ridge*, p. 95

Although artillery caused more casualties during the war the machine gun was the perfect weapon to stop an infantry attack across no man's land. Spitting out bullets at rates of 500-600 rounds per minute, it could mow down men like wheat.

Specifications (Mark I: 1916)

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Length | 32' | Weight | 28 tons | hp | 105 |
| Width | 14' | Speed | 4 mph | fuel | 50 gallon |
| Height | 8' | Crew | 8 men | range | 27 miles |
| Guns .... Male ..... | | (Big Willie) ..... | 2 6 pounders | | |
| Female ..... | | (Mother) ..... | 2 machine guns (Vickers) | | |

# Caring for the Wounded

*Stretcher bearers at Passchendale*

He was a stretcher-bearer. For nine days before, during and after Vimy he got practically no sleep, little food and very little water. He said: "We lived on the rum ration." His job was to take stretcher cases, too serious to be operated on by the field ambulance, back to the casualty clearing station. On the return journey he and his companions brought forward two-gallon petrol tins of water. He remembers a young officer who came in on a stretcher so badly wounded that Smith could see his heart beating.

H. F. Wood, *Vimy!*, p. 157

## From the battlefield . . .

A "flying pig" had exploded as it left the gun and three men had been shredded to fragments. We were to pick up legs and bits of flesh from underfoot, place all in the bags and then bury them. It was a harsh breaking-in. We did not speak a word as we worked. When we were done Stevenson told us we could go, but Tommy and I lingered in a trench bay and stared over the dark, flickering, silhouetted landscape.

W. R. Bird, *Ghosts Have Warm Hands*, pp. 13-14

TOTAL CASUALTIES OVERSEAS FROM DISEASE AND WOUNDS
To March 31, 1923

| | Officers | Other Ranks | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cases of disease | 19,100 | 375,984 | 395,084 |
| Died of disease | 175 | 3,650 | 3,825 |
| Percentage of deaths by disease to number of cases of disease. | .91 | .97 | .96 |
| Cases of wounded | 6,347 | 143,385 | 149,732 |
| Died of wounds | 819 | 16,363 | 17,182 |
| Percentage of deaths by wounds to number of cases of wounds. | 12.90 | 11.41 | 11.60 |

A. Macphail, *History of the Canadian Forces*, p. 248

*Mustard gas burns*

*Field Ambulance dressing wounded at Amiens*

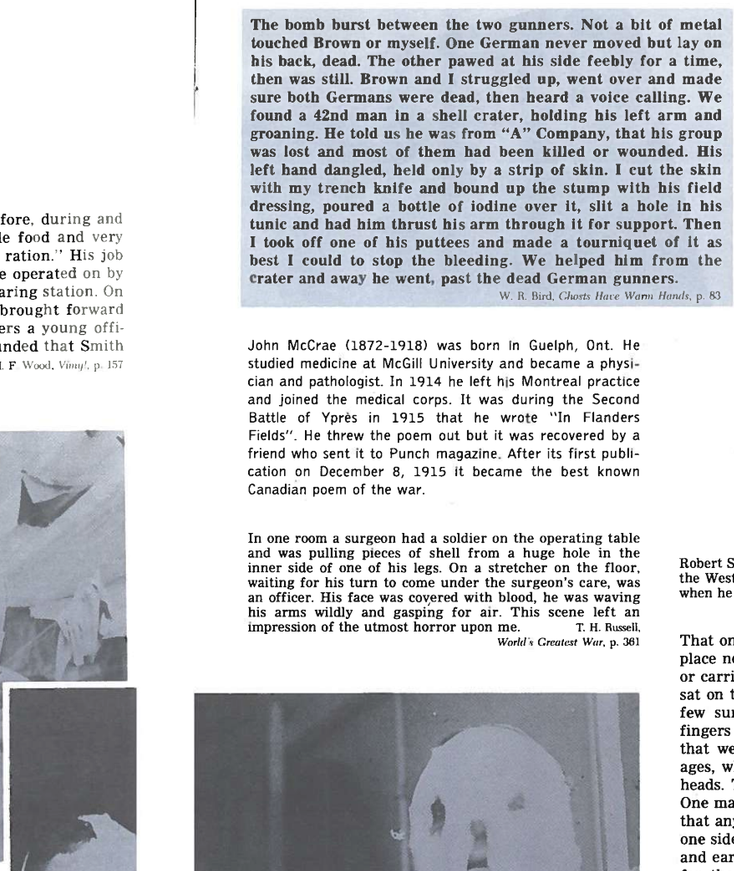
## . . . to the casualty clearing station . . .

During the years of their service the 2,555,442 operations which the dentists of the corps performed included: fillings, 933,765; treatments, 355,924; dentures, 164,543; prophylaxis, 187,110; extractions, 526,113; devitalizing, 87,987. During the year 1918, alone, they cared for 8,546 cases of "trench mouth," and these received 49,449 treatments.

A. Macphail, *History of the Canadian Forces*, p. 233

*Dental office at a field ambulance dressing station, 1916*

A hospital for the wounded was established in Toronto mainly through donations. All those who contributed either $40,000 or $1.00 or even a pair of socks had their names listed and printed in a book.



*Happy wounded Canadians at a casualty clearing station near Arras*

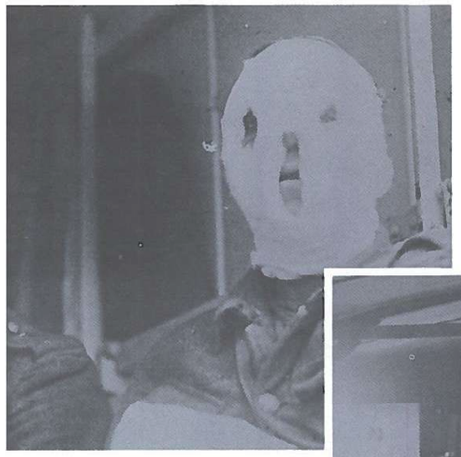
**The bomb burst between the two gunners. Not a bit of metal touched Brown or myself. One German never moved but lay on his back, dead. The other pawed at his side feebly for a time, then was still. Brown and I struggled up, went over and made sure both Germans were dead, then heard a voice calling. We found a 42nd man in a shell crater, holding his left arm and groaning. He told us he was from "A" Company, that his group was lost and most of them had been killed or wounded. His left hand dangled, held only by a strip of skin. I cut the skin with my trench knife and bound up the stump with his field dressing, poured a bottle of iodine over it, slit a hole in his tunic and had him thrust his arm through it for support. Then I took off one of his puttees and made a tourniquet of it as best I could to stop the bleeding. We helped him from the crater and away he went, past the dead German gunners.**

W. R. Bird, *Ghosts Have Warm Hands*, p. 83

John McCrae (1872-1918) was born in Guelph, Ont. He studied medicine at McGill University and became a physician and pathologist. In 1914 he left his Montreal practice and joined the medical corps. It was during the Second Battle of Ypres in 1915 that he wrote "In Flanders Fields". He threw the poem out but it was recovered by a friend who sent it to Punch magazine. After its first publication on December 8, 1915 it became the best known Canadian poem of the war.

In one room a surgeon had a soldier on the operating table and was pulling pieces of shell from a huge hole in the inner side of one of his legs. On a stretcher on the floor, waiting for his turn to come under the surgeon's care, was an officer. His face was covered with blood, he was waving his arms wildly and gasping for air. This scene left an impression of the utmost horror upon me.

T. H. Russell, *World's Greatest War*, p. 361



## . . . by truck . . .

To care for the wounded the Canadian army mobilized a large staff and had the use of a wide variety of facilities.

**1,617 medical officers**
**2,002 nursing sisters**
**12,382 other ranks**
**6 general hospitals**
**6 stationary hospitals**
**6 casualty clearing stations**
**13 field ambulances**

In England there were

**9 treatment hospitals**
**5 special hospitals**
**5 convalescent hospitals**

In Canada 65 hospitals with a capacity of 11,786 beds were maintained.

OPA 1919 17

Robert Service of Klondike fame served on the Western Front as a stretcher bearer when he was over forty years old.

That one house was used as an outlying hospital or dressing-place nearest the firing line, and the wounded had to be led or carried only two or three hundred yards to reach it. They sat on the dining-room chairs or lay helpless on the floor. A few surgeons were at work upon them, cutting off loose fingers and throwing them into basins, plugging black holes that welled up instantly through the plug, straining bandages, which in a minute ceased to be white, round legs and heads. The smell of fresh, warm blood was thick on the air. One man lay deep in his blood. You could not have supposed that anyone had so much in him. Another's head had lost on one side all human semblance, and was a hideous pulp of eye and ear and jaw. Another, with chest torn open, lay gasping for the few minutes left of life. And as I waited for the ambulance more were brought in, and always more.

T. H. Russell, *World's Greatest War*, p. 391

## . . . to the field hospital.

Sphagnum moss was gathered in Cape Breton Island and used for surgical dressing during the war. Its remarkable absorbent qualities aided the healing process and by 1916 it was adopted by the British Army as an official dressing. Moss growing near the seacoast where the air was damp and subject to few violent temperature changes was found to be most suitable. The moss was gathered and sent to the Natural History Museum in St. John, New Brunswick where Red Cross workers graded it for use.

Canadian Red Cross Society
November 1918

*Tilting the bucket during the Canadian Championship Athletic meet in France, 1917*

*To the delight of the soldiers men had to play the part of women in the stage shows. These four are the Princess Pats comedy team.*

Now here's a bit of shelter boys, a cosy place to camp,
So kindly make yourselves at home, and if the feet be damp
Keep on your socks and "Kitcheners", tuck in the blankets tight,
And pray you'll still be living this time tomorrow night.
H. F. Wood, *Vimy!*, p. 134

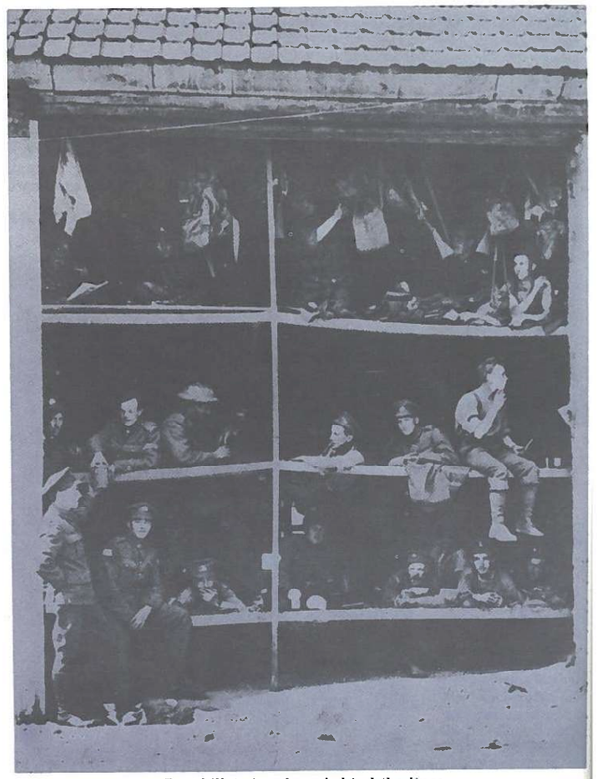
# Life Behind the Lines

## Rest Billets

There were various types of rest billets, from the shelter made of sandbags with a tarpaulin top, no floor and few comforts, to the really "cushy" still-inhabited village where the engineers might have built three-tiered bunks in dry barns. Chicken wire served as good springs in the bunks. In between these two extremes there might be a Nissen hut of corrugated steel with floor, doors, but no windows. Most common was an abandoned village where soldiers made do with what they could find. Field kitchens were always at hand and the men had regular meals. For breakfast there was tea and hardtack with jam and sometimes bacon; for dinner beef or mutton stew, fried fish, pork and beans or, very occasionally, roast beef. All were good, but sometimes rabbit stew appeared and that was universally loathed. Supper was the same as breakfast, but extra "pickings" might be scrounged around the countryside. In the few days of rest men washed and mended their clothes, smartened up with some drill, took part in sports and on one evening had a company "smoker" where beer was free and sing-songs rowdy.

L. Worthington, *Amid the Guns Below*, p. 25

*Canada beats Australia on the greasy pole*



*Rest billets in a barn behind the lines*



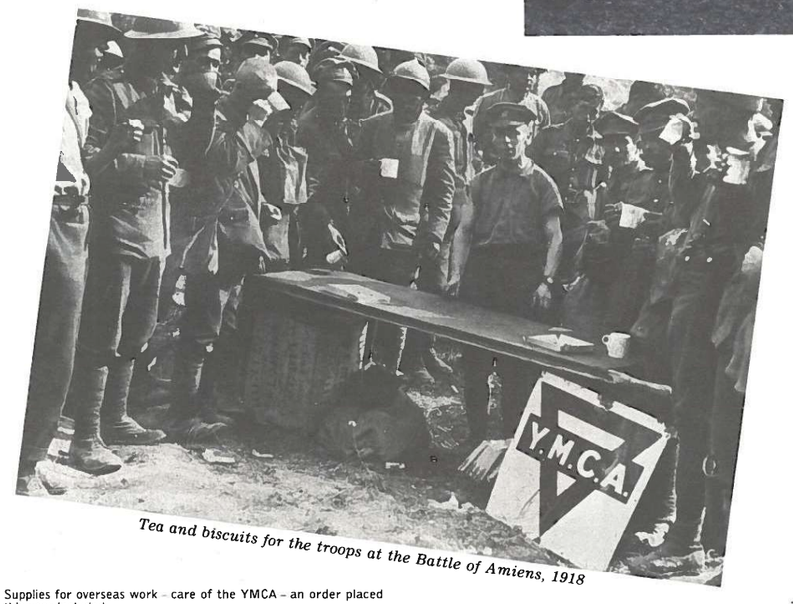
A Little Bit of Heaven

Oh a little bit of everything got into a tin one day
And they packed it up and sealed it in a most mysterious way
And some "Brass Hat" came and tasted it,
And " 'Pon me Sam," says he,
"We shall feed it to the soldiers,
And call it M and V."*
*Meat and Vegetables.
OPA A-2 A Christmas Garland

*Horse back wrestling at the Canadian Corps Horse Show, 19 July 1916*

Some of our men were sleeping in a barn on straw. Three of them had heavy colds. One was Hillary from our unit, a college graduate from a good home. He was very sick that night, and Christensen went to the medical officer and said it was necessary to get an ambulance at once to take Hillary to hospital. He was told the patient would be examined the next day, but the ambulance did not come until late afternoon. It was altogether too late. Hillary died the next morning. Christensen was so angry that he wrote a letter to Hillary's parents telling exactly what had happened. The letter was stopped by the censor, and Christensen was given fourteen days' punishment.

W. R. Bird, *Ghosts Have Warm Hands*, p. 24

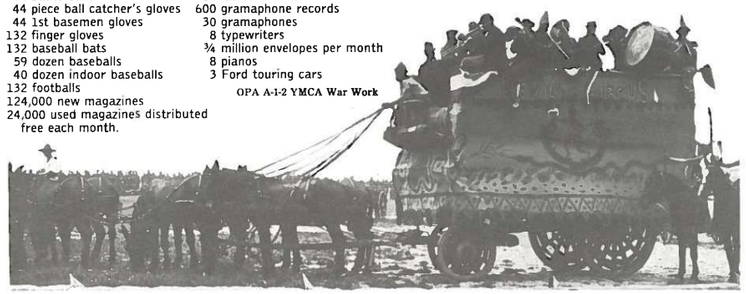



*Tea and biscuits for the troops at the Battle of Amiens, 1918*

Supplies for overseas work – care of the YMCA – an order placed this year included

| | |
|---|---|
| 22 basketball sets | 14 cricket sets |
| 22 volleyball nets | 138 sets checkers |
| 22 volleyballs | 24 tennis rackets |
| 44 basketballs | 64 lacrosse sticks |
| 44 piece ball catcher's gloves | 600 gramaphone records |
| 44 1st basemen gloves | 30 gramaphones |
| 132 finger gloves | 8 typewriters |
| 132 baseball bats | ¾ million envelopes per month |
| 59 dozen baseballs | 8 pianos |
| 40 dozen indoor baseballs | 3 Ford touring cars |
| 132 footballs | |
| 124,000 new magazines | |
| 24,000 used magazines distributed free each month. | |

OPA A-1-2 YMCA War Work



*Even the circus came to entertain the troops during wartime*

### Y.M.C.A. WAR WORK

5. The Y.M.C.A. has 120 Military Centres, forty-five in Canada, twenty-two in England and fifty-three in France.
6. A typical Overseas centre has a building 30 × 100 feet, a marquee 30 × 90 feet with a platform, writing tables, chairs, canteen, gramaphone, piano and moving picture apparatus.
7. We have one hundred pianos, three hundred gramaphones and twenty-seven small and large moving picture machines in England and France.
8. From sixty thousand to seventy-five thousand cups of hot tea and coffee are distributed free at the firing line daily, costing us not less than $500 per day.
9. One hundred and forty thousand magazines are distributed gratuitously every month.
10. One thousand dollars is spent monthly on the concerts in England alone. These concerts are frequently attended by over one thousand men.
11. All athletic requirements are furnished free to the troops. One single overseas order for baseball equipment totalled $25,000; a larger sum than is spent by either of the American Major Leagues.
12. One million sheets of paper are distributed free each month. The soldiers were encouraged to use this freely and thousands of letters were written home that would never have been written but for the facilities afforded. It is estimated that thirty thousand letters are written daily by Canadian soldiers in our Overseas buildings.

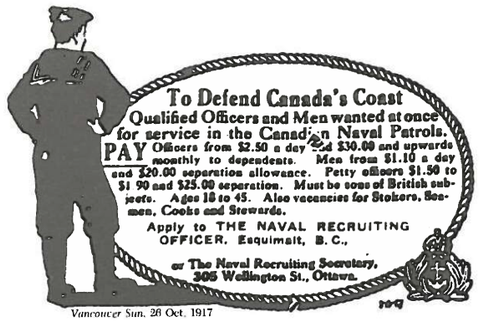
OPA C-2-1

SPORTS DAY EVENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. 100 yard dash | 7. Wheel barrow race |
| 2. 3 legged race | 8. Tug-of-war |
| 3. Relay race – 1 mile | 9. Greased pig |
| 4. Sack race | 10. Packer's race |
| 5. Pic-a-bac wrestling | 11. Chariot race |
| 6. Mule race | 12. Boxing |

OPA A-2 A Christmas Garland

# The War at Sea


To Defend Canada's Coast
Qualified Officers and Men wanted at once for service in the Canadian Naval Patrols.
PAY Officers from $2.50 a day and $30.00 and upwards monthly to dependents. Men from $1.10 a day and $20.00 separation allowance. Petty officers $1.50 to $1.90 and $25.00 separation. Must be sons of British subjects. Ages 18 to 45. Also vacancies for Stokers, Seamen, Cooks and Stewards.
Apply to THE NAVAL RECRUITING OFFICER, Esquimalt, B. C.,
or The Naval Recruiting Secretary, 305 Wellington St., Ottawa.

*Vancouver Sun*, 26 Oct. 1917

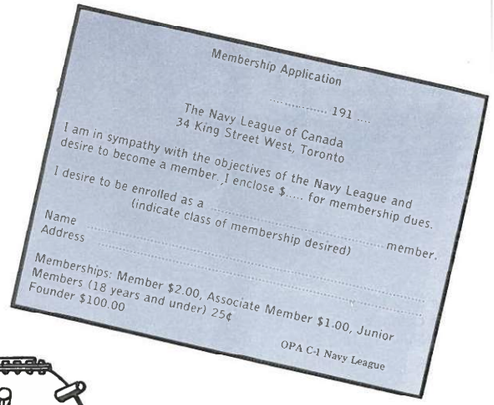
THE NAVIES OF EUROPE

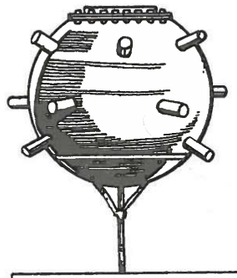
| Country | Modern Battleships | Cruiser Battleships | Older Battleships | First-class Cruisers | Other Cruisers | Destroyers | Torpedo Boats | Submarines | Officers and Men |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Great Britain | 29 | 10 | 38 | 42 | 70 | 227 | 58 | 85 | 137,500 |
| Germany | 19 | 7 | 20 | 9 | 45 | 141 | 47 | 30 | 66,783 |
| France | 17 | 0 | 15 | 18 | 13 | 87 | 173 | 90 | 60,621 |
| Russia | 9 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 105 | 23 | 48 | 52,463 |
| Italy | 8 | 0 | 8 | 7 | 13 | 35 | 73 | 20 | 33,095 |
| Austria-Hungary | 4 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 9 | 18 | 53 | 15 | 17,581 |
| Sweden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 51 | 7 | 5,715 |
| Netherlands | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 11 | 8 | 33 | 8 | 11,164 |
| Norway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 26 | 5 | 1,003 |
| Denmark | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 3 | 4,000 |

T. H. Russell, *World's Greatest War*, p. 47

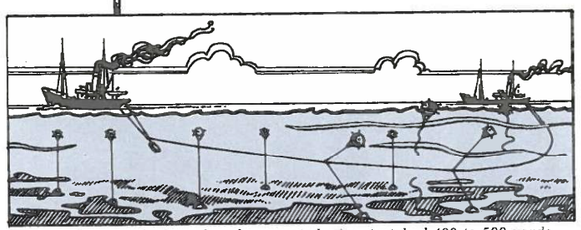
At the time of the outbreak of the war the Canadian Navy consisted of two cruisers, Niobe 11,000 tons, Rainbow 3,000 tons.

OPA 1919 7

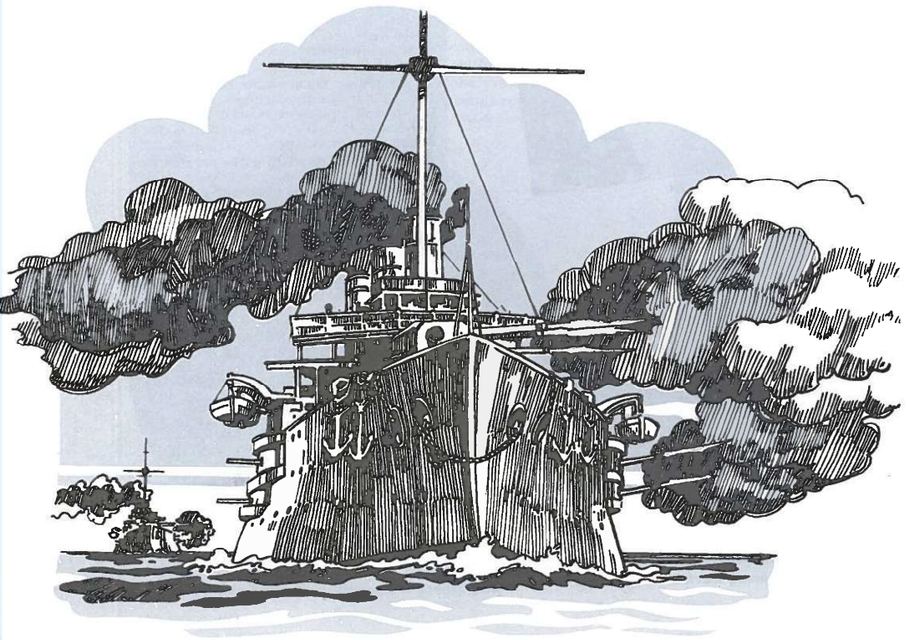

Membership Application
.....191....
The Navy League of Canada
34 King Street West, Toronto
I am in sympathy with the objectives of the Navy League and desire to become a member. I enclose $..... for membership dues.
I desire to be enrolled as a .....member.
(indicate class of membership desired)
Name .....
Address .....
Memberships: Member $2.00, Associate Member $1.00, Junior Members (18 years and under) 25¢
Founder $100.00
OPA C-1 Navy League



In July of 1918 the first aircraft carrier came into operation when seven Sopwith Camels took off from the deck of the Furious. In August, planes landed on her deck for the first time.



*The British method employed a serrated wire stretched 400 to 500 yards between pairs of sweepers. In 1917 about 400 mines were swept from the seas around Britain.*



The Northern Barrage — a mine field stretched from the Orkney Islands to the Norwegian coast and was from 15 to 35 miles wide. W. G. Dooly, *Great Weapons of WWI*, p. 308

51 trawlers, 56 drifters and 16 armed auxiliaries were engaged in mine sweeping, patrolling, convoying and examination of shipping.

Because of the length of time required to build a warship Great Britain urged Canada to concentrate her efforts on land. However, because of the rapid expansion of submarine warfare Canada quickly became involved in patrolling the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. By 1918 over 100 ships were operating under the Canadian Patrol Service.

Canada as well built anti-submarine trawlers, drifters, and anti-submarine launches.

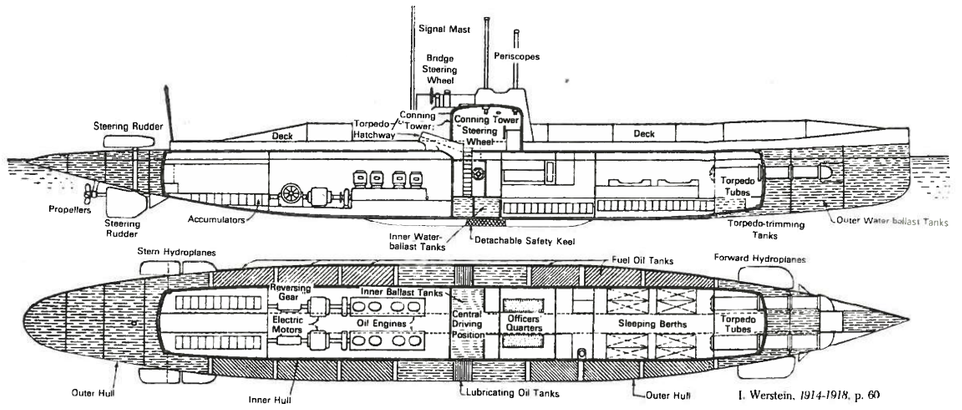
The Royal Canadian Navy recruited men to serve in the Royal Navy.
1,700 officers and men
635 pilots for the Royal Naval Air Service
101 surgeon-probationers
112 mechanics

8,826 served in the Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reserve.

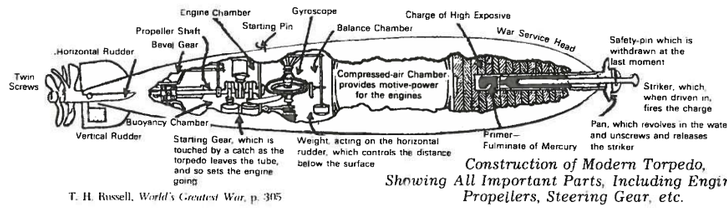


The submarine became a practical offensive and defensive naval vessel with the development of the periscope in 1902.

The largest British submarine, the mighty "M", displaced 1,000 tons, carried a 12 inch gun on deck which supposedly could fire when submerged in 20 feet of water.




I. Werstein, *1914-1918*, p. 60


Engine Chamber
Gyroscope
Charge of High Explosive
Propeller Shaft
Starting Pin
Balance Chamber
War Service Head
Horizontal Rudder
Bevel Gear
Safety-pin which is withdrawn at the last moment
Twin Screws
Compressed-air Chamber, provides motive-power for the engines
Striker, which, when driven in, fires the charge
Buoyancy Chamber
Pan, which revolves in the water and unscrews and releases the striker
Vertical Rudder
Starting Gear, which is touched by a catch as the torpedo leaves the tube, and so sets the engine going
Weight, acting on the horizontal rudder, which controls the distance below the surface
Primer—Fulminate of Mercury

T. H. Russell, *World's Greatest War*, p. 305

*Construction of Modern Torpedo, Showing All Important Parts, Including Engine, Propellers, Steering Gear, etc.*

Great Britain's supremacy on the seas was established for the war when nine battleships armed with 15 inch guns were launched in 1915 and 1916.

Length 650 feet
Width 90 feet
Displacement 31,000 tons
Belt armour 13 inches
Horse power 75,000
Speed 25 knots
Power source oil
Crew 1000
Armaments 8-15 inch guns

**Statistics of E-1 Class British submarine (1913-1917)**

Length ..... 181 feet
Width ..... 22½ feet
Speed ..... surface—16 knots
submerged—10 knots
Displacement 700 tons
Armaments .. 5 — 18" torpedo tubes
1 — 12 pounder gun
Crew ..... 30 men

**Defensive measures against the submarine.**

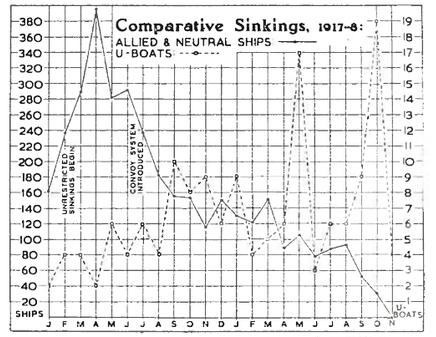
1. Mine the areas you wish to protect.
2. String nets across key passages.
3. Sink blockships at entrance to sub bases.
4. Countermine exits of submarine bases.
5. "Q-Ships" Merchant ship camouflaged to conceal heavy deck guns.
6. Arm ordinary merchant ships.
7. Bomb sub bases.
8. Institute convoy systems.

GERMAN U - BOATS

| | |
|---|---|
| Lost at Sea | 178 |
| Surrendered | 157 |
| Scuttled or lost en route to surrender | 21 |
| Interned or ceded to other nations | 7 |
| Destroyed in Germany | 8 |
| TOTAL BUILT BY NOVEMBER 11, 1918: | 371 |

By the time the First World War was over Germany had built over 400 submarines of which over 200 were destroyed. The Germans had sunk 5408 ships, a total of 11 189 000 tons, half of which was sunk in 1917.

By mid-1917 one of every four ships which sailed from Great Britain never returned.


Comparative Sinkings, 1917-8:
ALLIED & NEUTRAL SHIPS
U-BOATS
CONVOY SYSTEM INTRODUCED
SHIPS
U-BOATS
J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N

R. B. Sellman, *First World War*, p. 53

## The value of the submarine

"The introduction of vessels that swim under water," he said, "has in my opinion entirely done away with the utility of the ships that swim on top of the water. The functions of a war vessel were these: Defensively, (1) to attack ships that come to bombard our forts, (2) to attack ships that come to blockade us, (3) to attack ships convoying a landing party, (4) to attack the enemy's fleet, (5) to attack ships interfering with our commerce; offensively, (1) to bombard an enemy's ports, (2) to blockade an enemy, (3) to convoy a landing party, (4) to attack the enemy's fleet, (5) to attack the enemy's commerce. T. H. Russell, *World's Greatest War*, p. 302

## The Sinking of the Lusitania

A warning to travellers.

NOTICE!

TRAVELERS intending to embark on the Atlantic voyage are reminded that a state of war exists between Germany and her allies and Great Britain and her allies; that the zone of war includes the waters adjacent to the British Isles; that, in accordance with formal notice given by the Imperial German Government, vessels flying the flag of Great Britain, or of any of her allies, are liable to destruction in those waters, and that travelers sailing in the war zone on ships of Great Britain or her allies do so at their own risk.

IMPERIAL GERMAN EMBASSY.
Washington, D.C., April 23, 1915

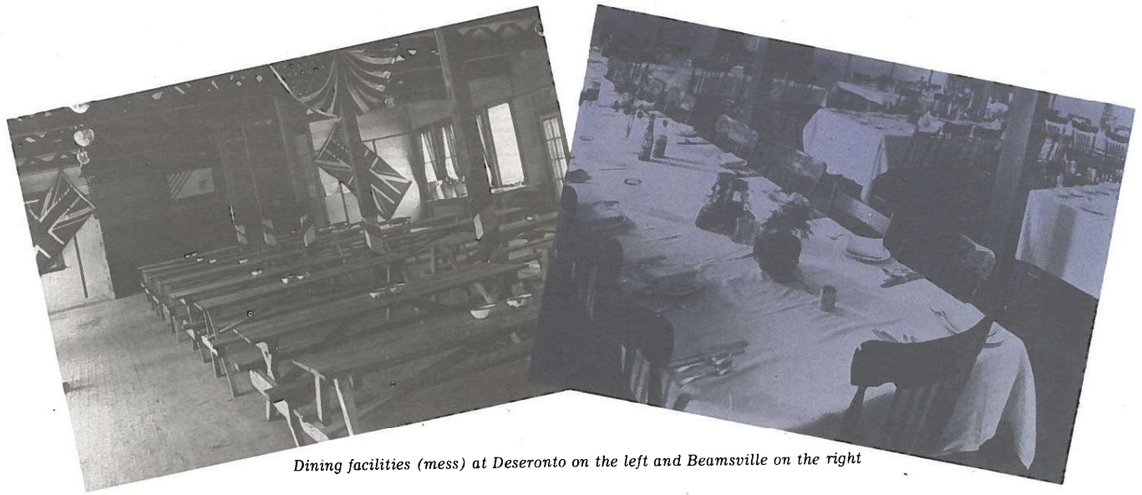
T. H. Russell, *World's Greatest War*, p. 427

**On Board the Lusitania: 1917**

Then, on May 7, as strollers gathered on deck after lunch to watch the approaching green fields of Ireland, disaster struck. "The ship stops immediately and quickly heels to starboard," wrote Commander Walter Schwieger of the U-boat that had just sent a torpedo through the ship's hull. "Great confusion . . . Lifeboats being cleared and lowered to water. Many boats crowded . . . immediately fill and sink." The Lusitania went down in 18 minutes, carrying 1,198 people to their deaths. A. M. Josephy, *American Heritage History of W.W.I.*, p. 143

The total number of souls aboard the Lusitania was 1,916. The passengers, first, second and third class, numbered 1,251, and the crew 665. Of the total number on board 782 were saved, while 1,134 lost their lives. The saved included 465 passengers and 317 members of the crew. In the death roll were 786 passengers and 348 of the crew. The dead passengers included many Canadians and 115 neutral American citizens.

T. H. Russell, *World's Greatest War*, p. 419

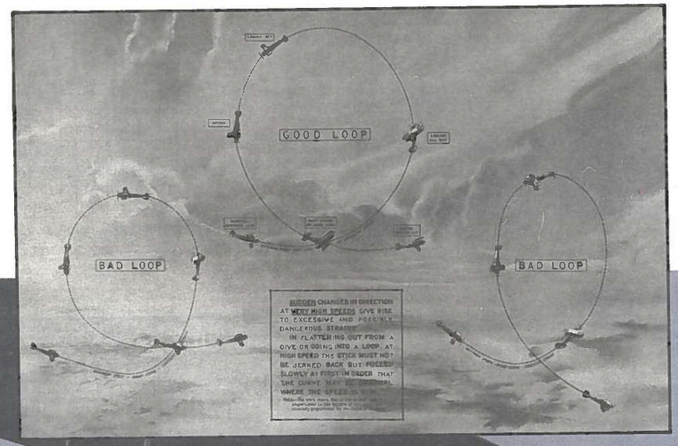


*Dining facilities (mess) at Deseronto on the left and Beamsville on the right*

# The War in the Air

"Flying is very cold these days, and we have to slobber whale-oil on our faces to prevent frost bite. After doing four hours at 1500 feet we are numb when we get back, but a square meal and the rum ration help a lot."

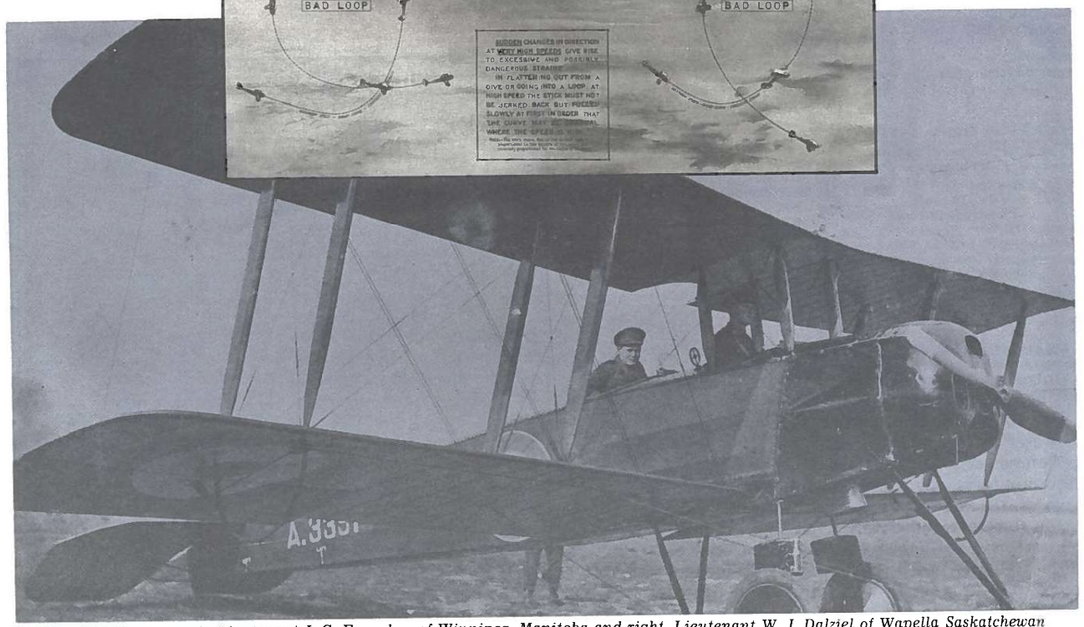
*Letter from the Front.*
OPA 1918 33




THE CODE OF THE PILOT

"No honourable aviator attacks an aeroplane that is already on fire. Such a foe has enough trouble to deal with; he is regarded as out of the fight."

PAC 1917 4550



*Avro 504 aircraft. Left, Lieutenant J. G. Farquhar of Winnipeg, Manitoba and right, Lieutenant W. J. Dalziel of Wapella Saskatchewan*

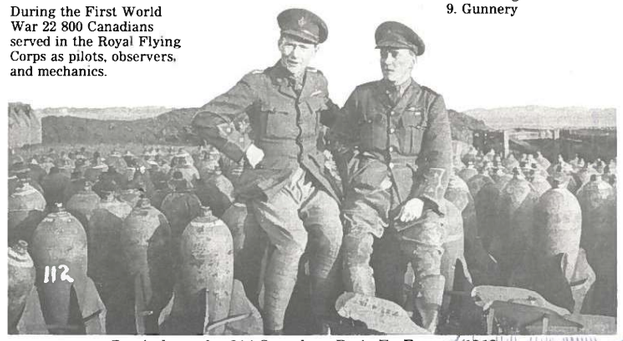


**Air Service**

3960 soldiers switched to a branch of the Royal Flying Corps.
1389 Canadians in England volunteered for air service.
10 010 cadets were recruited in Canada (4280 went overseas)
7453 mechanics were recruited.

Skills required of a Pilot
1. Flying
2. Map reading
3. Reconnaissance
4. Aerial photography
5. Meteorology
6. Wireless telegraphy
7. Artillery observation
8. Bombing
9. Gunnery

During the First World War 22 800 Canadians served in the Royal Flying Corps as pilots, observers, and mechanics.



*Bomb dump for 214 Squadron R. A. F., France, 1918*

**Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin who had watched the role of observer balloons during the American Civil War brought Germany into the war as the most advanced nation in airships and airship design. Raids on England began in January of 1915 and by the war's end over 200 bombing raids had been made, 6000 bombs dropped causing 2000 casualties. Able to "fly" at altitudes of up to 16 000' the Zeppelin was difficult to bring down. It was not until the development of the incendiary bullet that the gas-filled balloon was rendered obsolete. During the war Germany produced 80 air ships, 73 of which were destroyed.**

Zeppelin Specifications

| | |
|---|---|
| Length | 670 feet |
| Diameter | 72 feet |
| Capacity | 2 000 000 cubic feet |
| Load | 3 tons |
| Guns | 4 Maxim guns (2 on top, 2 in gondola) |
| Gas | hydrogen |
| Power source | 6 air screws, 240 hp. each |
| Speed | 55-60 mph |
| Altitude | 16 000 feet |
| Crew | 16 - 22 men |
| Fuel | 3 tons |

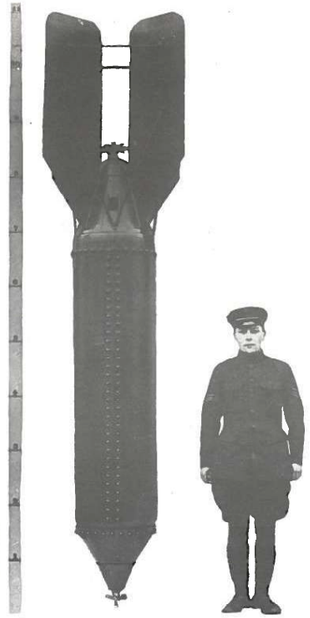
Air strength of Germany and Allied nations in the First World War.

| | 1914 | 1918 |
|---|---|---|
| Canada | 0 | 0 |
| Britain | 135 | 2500 |
| France | 770 | 3800 |
| Germany | 371 | 2800 |
| United States | | 700 |

OPA 1914 12

Aircraft operated from the decks of battleships as early as 1911. The ship was fitted with a flying-off deck and cranes to retrieve the planes when they landed in the water.

The earlier aircraft had the engine mounted on the trailing side of the wing. The engine literally pushed the plane through the air, rather than pulling it.



In 1914 the plane was used for reconnaissance, had a top speed of 75 miles per hour and carried no guns or bombs. By the end of the war the best fighters could reach a speed of 175 miles an hour and the bombers could carry up to 3 tons of bombs.

Before sophisticated bombing devices were developed pilots simply dropped the bombs over the side of the cockpit.

A pilot was classified an "ace" when he shot down 5 enemy aircraft. The top Canadian aces were:

| | |
|---|---|
| Billy Bishop | 72 planes destroyed |
| Raymond Collishaw | 60 planes destroyed |
| W. G. Barker | 50 planes destroyed |
| D. R. MacLaren | 48 planes destroyed |

J. N. Harris, *Knights of the Air*, p. 12

*Billy Bishop, Canada's foremost flying ace, August 1917*

The Nieuport fighter flown by Billy Bishop was capable of climbing 7000 feet in seven minutes and had a ceiling of about 20 000 feet.

| | |
|---|---|
| Air speed | 140 mph |
| Flight time | 2½ hours |

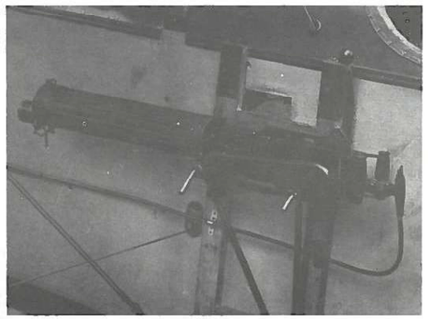
Daily rates of pay for Canadians attached to the Royal Flying Corps — 1917

| Squadron | |
|---|---|
| Commander | $10.00 |
| Flight Commander | 7.50 |
| Flying Officer | 6.00 |

PAC 1917 4573

The problems faced by Canadian pilots
— Rain
— Cold
— Open cockpit
— Identification of enemy
— Sunlight — screen enemy

*A target which moves along rails*



*The synchronized machine gun made it possible to fire between the rotating blades of the propellers thereby increasing the accuracy of the shooting*

# Sir Arthur Currie: War Hero

*General Currie, Commander Canadian Corps, June 1917*

Currie's address to the Corps during the height of the German offensive in March 1918.

In an endeavour to reach an immediate decision, the enemy has gathered all his forces and struck a mighty blow at the British Army. Overwhelmed by sheer weight of numbers, the British Divisions in the line between the Scarpe and the Oise have fallen back fighting hard, steady and undismayed.

Measures have been taken successfully to meet this German onslaught. The French have gathered a powerful Army, commanded by a most able and trusted leader, and this Army is now moving swiftly to our help. Fresh British divisions are being thrown in. The Canadians are soon to be engaged. Our Motor Machine Gun Brigade has already played a most gallant part and once again covered itself with glory.

Looking back with pride on the unbroken record of your glorious achievements, asking you to realize that today the fate of the British Empire hangs in the balance, I place my trust in the Canadian Corps, knowing that where Canadians are engaged there can be no giving way.

Under the orders of your devoted officers in the coming battle you will advance or fall where you stand facing the enemy.

To those who will fall I say: You will not die but step into immortality. Your mothers will not lament your fate but will be proud to have borne such sons. Your names will be revered forever and ever by your grateful country, and God will take you unto Himself.

Canadians, in this fateful hour, I command you and I trust you to fight as you have ever fought with all your strength, with all your determination, with all your tranquil courage. On many a hard-fought field of battle you have overcome this enemy. With God's help you shall achieve victory once more.

L. Worthington, *Amid the Guns Below*, pp. 118-119

## Decisions on....

**The Ross Rifle**
Shortly after the Ypres battle Currie presided over a board of inquiry on the Ross rifle. The verdict was a damning condemnation of the weapon, and this infuriated Hughes. He refused to believe that in rapid fire the moving parts seized, making it worse than useless, and impelling men to fling it over the parapet in frustrated fury — retrieving it after dark because it had to be accounted for.

When Sir John French, on the strength of the Board's report, ordered the Ross withdrawn and the Lee-Enfields issued to the 1st Division, Hughes blamed Currie — not without reason.

L. Worthington, *Amid the Guns Below*, pp. 92-93

**Promotion**
When promoted to command the 1st Division in the fall of 1915, Currie openly opposed the appointment of the Minister's son as commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade. There was no personal animosity, the two were good friends. Currie simply did not consider Garnet Hughes sufficiently competent to command a brigade and did not want him in his division in that capacity. This did not increase his popularity with the Minister, who saw to it that his son received the appointment anyway.

L. Worthington, *Amid the Guns Below*, p. 93

**Doing Battle**
General Currie had many differences with the British Higher Command during his eighteen months as Corps commander. He refused to serve under General Gough, whom he considered incompetent. He protested against the Passchendaele action, agreeing to participate with his whole Corps or not at all. Then he picked his own date of attack, insisting on time to repair back areas and bring up supplies; and he refused to be hurried, for such details were the difference between defeat and victory.

L. Worthington, *Amid the Guns Below*, p. 116

**Attacking the Enemy**
In August 1918 Currie was a strong force behind the great push at Amiens and the decision to transfer to Arras when the German defence stiffened. At the Canal du Nord, he refused to make a suicidal frontal attack, but his alternative plan showed a skill and courage incomprehensible to many of the other generals and saved the Canadian Corps from probable destruction.

L. Worthington, *Amid the Guns Below*, p. 161

**Using the Canadian Corps**
In March, 1918, during a thirty-six hour absence, his Corps was torn apart, separate divisions sent careering up and down the line. Only his return prevented their commitment to the sausage machine of the German advance, with the same hysterical lack of direction the British troops were enduring. His insistence on their return to his command incurred Haig's anger, but his Motor Machine Gun Brigade went in — cool, hard-hitting mobile batteries, trained to act independently. Their participation was valuable not only for their tremendous fire-power and field movement, but for the confidence and leadership they gave to disorganized groups of men left leaderless by the hasty departure of their headquarters.

L. Worthington, *Amid the Guns Below*, p. 161

**Dealing with Superiors**
As a Canadian, Currie could do that which neither Alderson nor Byng, as British regulars, could do — protest unsound assignments from British General Headquarters. As General Seely says, he all but refused to commit his men to useless suicidal engagements. Instead, he submitted alternate plans which the Higher Command acknowledged as superior and eventually adopted. He did refuse, to the anger and resentment of Sir Douglas Haig, to allow the Corps to be broken up and integrated with the British. Currie knew that the Corps' strength lay in its cohesion and unified action. They would not have done as well apart: furthermore, Sir Arthur had small regard for the ability of some of the British army commanders. Only in emergencies, and then on a temporary basis, did he permit employment of his divisions elsewhere.

L. Worthington, *Amid the Guns Below*, p. xiv



## In praise of Currie....

**by Sir Robert Borden**
"I believe he is the ablest corps commander in the British Army; more than that, I believe that he is at least as capable as any army commander in France."

L. M. Frost, *Fighting Men*, p. 95

**by Field Marshal Jan Smuts**
"He was a man, solid, straightforward and sincere, no highflier, and not pretending to be other than he really was. He was a clear cut character and so was his work. In him you felt instinctively you had a case which could be decided on its merits.
"He himself of course falls into the class of leaders of high executive power, and in this class he ranks very high among the war leaders of the first Great War. There is probably not a single Army Commander whose place he could not have taken. And this is high praise indeed, because there were great leaders among them.
"He was single-minded at his great job. He kept his personal integrity. He moved unsullied through a world of political and professional intrigue. He trained himself, he trained the practically untrained lives sent him, and turned them into finished soldiers. He studied his moves, and rehearsed them in advance with his officers and men until the corps machine worked with clocklike regularity. He gave his division, and then his corps, a soul, which is the real task of a commander. He left little to chance in a sphere where chance plays so great a part. Short of the flair of supreme genius he was everything a great commander should be."

H. M. Urquhart, *Arthur Currie*, p. XIII

**by Major-General J. E. B. Seeley**
"Of all the men that I knew in nearly four years on the Western Front I think Currie was the man who took the most care of his men. Moreover, again and again he nearly brought his career to an end by bluntly refusing to do things which he was certain would result in loss of life without compensating advantage."

L. Worthington, *Amid the Guns Below*, p. XIV

**by General Horne**
"Many great qualities as a leader, commander and organizer. He has inspired and created an *esprit*, and morale throughout all ranks which is second to none. His perseverance and tact has smoothed away many difficulties... I have felt confident that any task I called upon General Currie to perform would be carried through to my satisfaction."

H. M. Urquhart, *Arthur Currie*, p. 182

## His return home, August 1919

There were no cheering crowds, bands, flags, or glitter of military pomp on the deck — simply the chilly echoing emptiness of the clearing sheds and the usual small groups of officers, officials and kind-hearted women who had got up at all times and seasons for the entire four years of the war to "make Canadian soldiers welcome".

H. M. Urquhart, *Arthur Currie*, p. 279

"After the official welcome," writes one of Currie's younger comrades in the field who was present at that occasion, "I got a chance to go up to him for a minute. The meeting was a bit tense and I found difficulty in maintaining control of myself. I managed to salute him and said 'Welcome home, sir.' Then for a moment he lost control of himself. His eyes got a bit wet, his lips trembled, he put one hand on my shoulder, two fingers of the other in my Sam Browne belt, quietly shook me and never said a word".

H. M. Urquhart, *Arthur Currie*, p. 280

He came back to Halifax a world-famous general yet his homecoming compared rather with the burial of Sir John Moore... On arrival at the City Hall they were met by a guard of honour, a group of people, chiefly officials, who received Currie in silence, and the garrison band. After inspecting the guard Currie proceeded to the Council Chamber where he was greeted by the Lieutenant Governor of the Province and the Mayor. They presented him with an address of welcome and a piece of silver plate, while flowers were handed to Lady Currie.

*Halifax Chronicle*, 18 Aug. 1919

## Currie and the Corps

It was only four divisions strong, but from 1917 on, it never lost a gun, never lost ground, and never failed in any assignment, although its tasks became more and more difficult. It revolutionized the tactics and employment of the machine-gun, and its complement included the first fully contained motorized armoured fighting unit in the Allied Forces — a motor machine-gun brigade. It led the Allies in advanced and effective artillery techniques. Finally, when chosen by Generalissimo Foch to spearhead the attack against the Germans in the late summer of 1918, it met and decisively defeated sixty-four fresh or rested German divisions in the last hundred days of the war. David Lloyd George in his war memoirs wrote: "Wherever the Germans found the Canadian Corps coming into the line they prepared for the worst!"

L. Worthington, *Amid the Guns Below*, p. XI

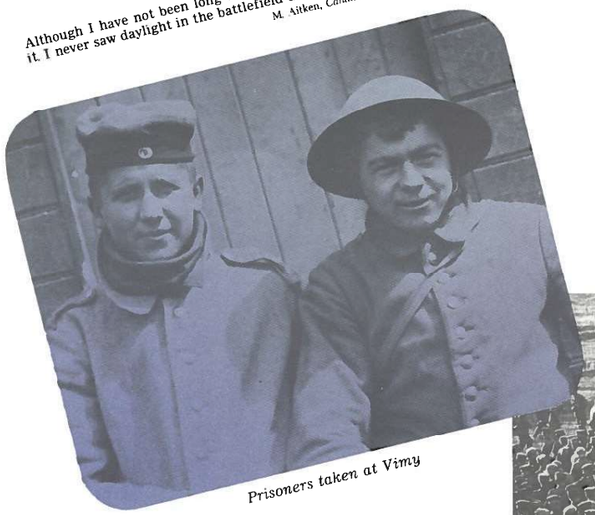
*General Arthur Currie being knighted by King George V in France, June 1917*

HONOURS AND AWARDS

| | |
|---|---|
| July 1915 | Proclaimed a hero in London. Commander of the Bath, England. Legion of Honour, France. |
| July 1917 | Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, England. |
| November 1917 | Croix de Guerre, France. Grand Officer of the Order of Couronne, Belgium. Distinguished Service Medal, United States. |
| December 1917 | Croix de Guerre, Belgium. |
| January 1918 | Knight Commander of the Bath, England. |
| January 1919 | Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, England. |
| May 1919 | Guest of Honour, Lord Mayor of London. |
| July 1919 | Honourary Degree, Cambridge University. |
| August 1919 | Private Luncheon with the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace. |

# Prisoners of War

Although I have not been long at the war, I have had enough of it. I never saw daylight in the battlefield until I was a prisoner.
M. Aitken, *Canada in Flanders*, p. 40



*Prisoners taken at Vimy*

**Routine Order re POW's** **April 10, 1918.**

**"Under the terms of the agreement between the British and German governments, no repatriated prisoners of war may be utilized on any front and, therefore, any officer, warrant officer, N.C.W. or man, who has been a prisoner of war and who has been repatriated is not to return overseas in official capacity which involves his being taken on the strength of the Overseas Military Forces of Canada."** OPA B-11

*E. C. Ashton*
*Major-General*

*Prisoners captured by Canadians arrive at the cage*

WAR PRISONERS IN CANADA

A parliamentary return tabled in the Dominion House of Commons on April 1st in regard to Canada's prisoners of war showed that up to February 25, 1915, there had been 35,620 citizens of enemy countries paroled in Canada, while the total number of prisoners of war was 2,294, interned in ten detention camps. The cost of the camps had totaled $112,590, while relief granted to the families of interned prisoners had been $120,396. The value of the work done by the war prisoners was placed at $15,000. It consisted of clearing and draining land, making roads, cutting wood and preparing land for crops in the Northern Ontario and Northern Quebec camps.

The total number of Austro-Hungarians paroled was 27,840, Germans 7,410 and Turks 370. The total number of prisoners at the Halifax detention camp on February 25th was 156: Kingston, 196; Petawawa, 564; Spirit Lake, Quebec 362; Kapuskasing, Ontario, 400; Lethbridge, 95; Brandon, 220; Vernon, 63; Nanaimo, 123. T. H. Russell, *World's Greatest War*, p. 552

Of the 15 196 people living in Berlin, Ontario 10 633 were of German origin but, only 1258 were actually born in Germany. In 1917 the city of Berlin was renamed Kitchener.

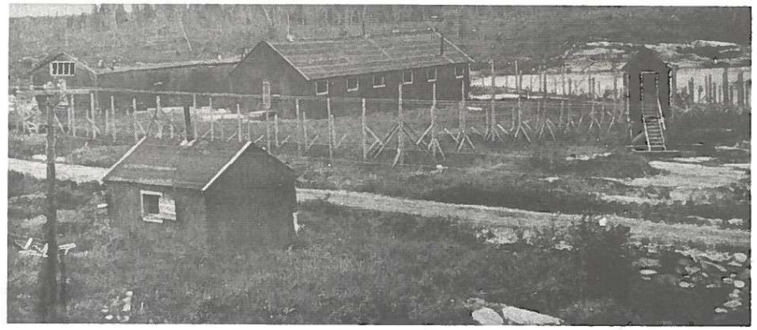
## German POW's

*To help pass the time some German prisoners formed an orchestra*

Prisoners of war may be put to work by the government that captures them and the duties must be assigned with a view to their aptitude, fitness and rank. The tasks must not be unduly severe, so as to border on cruelty, and they must have no bearing whatever on the operations of the war. The prisoners must be paid for the work they do, moreover, at a rate equal to that being paid to the soldiers of the national army, and prisoners may be authorized to work for the public service, for private persons or on their own account.

T. H. Russell, *World's Greatest War*, p. 365





*Kapuskasing internment camp for aliens living in Canada*

Soon after the outbreak of war in 1914 the Canadian government decided to establish internment camps for aliens, persons of foreign birth whom they feared would be loyal to their country of birth and not their country of adoption. Kapuskasing, located in the Ontario wilderness, was an ideal plaae. The deep snow and cold temperatures of the winter and the black flies and mosquitoes of the summer were natural guards making escape impossible. At first Slovaks, Ruthenians, Poles, Turks, Bulgars and Austrian aliens were set to work cutting wood and clearing the land. With the addition of German prisoners of war in 1916 the camp population rose to 1250 men with 250 troops guarding and supervising them. Only once during December of 1917 did three prisoners make a futile attempt to escape.

That evening as we looked for billets in a small village with only one *estaminet*, we heard shouting in French and went out to see four British soldiers coming across the field. They had lain hidden for two days in a wood and were almost starved. Every man in the platoon wanted to do something for them. They said they had been prisoners since March. They were walking skeletons, with matted hair and beards, rags tied around their feet in lieu of boots, their clothing crawling with vermin. Seeing them so weak-voiced and pitiful made us furious, as all of us had seen German prisoners in England well-fed and well-housed, working on farms in the Midlands. We all chipped in and paid Madame to get them a grand meal. We bought them bread to take with them, and were able to give each man ten francs with which to buy more food. W. R. Bird, *Ghosts Have Warm Hands*, pp. 198-199

Three parcels of food are sent to each man in a fortnight, each parcel weighing 10 lbs. when packed in a cardboard box, and costing 10s. Infinite pains are taken to provide, so far as regulations will allow, what is most acceptable to the men, and also to vary the food. Even the particular needs of each man are studied.

The three general parcels sent in the fortnight ending August 31 were:

| | A. | | B. | | C. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 lb. tin army rations. | | ½ lb. sugar. | | ½ lb. tin margarine. | |
| 1 lb. tin pork and beans. | | 1 lb. tin jam. | | 2½ lb. tin biscuits. | |
| 1 lb. carton smoked bacon. | | 2½ lb. carton biscuits. | | 6 pkts. lemon squash powder. | |
| ½ lb. tin cheese. | | 2 oz. cake primrose soap. | | 2 oz. cake Sanitas soap. | |
| 1 lb. tin milk. | | Cigarettes. | | Cigarettes. | |
| ¼ lb. tea. | | 1 shaving stick. | | 1 tin tooth paste. | |
| 1 lb. tin corned beef. | | | | | |
| 1 lb. tin sausages. | | | | | |
| 1 lb. tin meat and potato pie. | | | | | |
| ½ tin salmon. | | | | | |
| 1 lb. tin milk. | | | | | |
| ¼ lb. cocoa. | | | | | |
| 1 lb. tin fruit in syrup. | | | | | |
| 1 lb. tin bacon and beans. | | | | | 1 lb. carton dates. |
| 1 lb. tin army rations. | | | | | 1 lb. tin jam. |
| 1 lb. tin bully beef. | | | | | ½ lb. tin dripping. |
| 4 oz. tin potted meat or fish paste. | | | | | 2½ lb. carton biscuits. |
| 1 lb. tin milk. | | | | | 4 oz. cake coal tar soap. |
| ¼ lb. tea. | | | | | 1 tin condiments. |
| ½ lb. sugar. | | | | | Cigarettes. |

Summarising the contents of parcels sent out in fortnight ending August 31, we arrive at the following facts. Each man received 4 lb. solid meat, 5 lb. meat with vegetables, ½ lb. cheese, ½ lb. fish, ¼ lb. meat, &c., paste–10¼ lb. of food. It is calculated that 5 lb. per week should make two meals per day.

In addition, each man received in that fortnight:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3 lb. milk | = | 1½ lb. per week |
| 1 lb. sugar | = | ½ " " " |
| ½ lb. tea | = | ¼ " " " |
| ¼ lb. cocoa | = | ⅛ " " " |
| 2 lb. jam | = | 1 " " " |
| 1 lb. fats | = | ½ " " " |
| 2 lb. fruits | = | 1 " " " |
| 8 oz. soap | = | ¼ " " " |
| 3 lb. biscuits | = | 1½ " " " |

*Canadian Gazette*, 26 Sept. 1918

## Canadian POW's In Germany

Sept. 1, 1917

While, I thought it was time to write and thank you and all who are working so hard for us boys. (We do not grumble but give our thoughts over to them who have done many kindnesses for us, all who depend on you for our daily bread.) You have done splendid work and the English boys say so too. We cannot thank you all enough, we know by the things you send us. Warmest thanks to you and to all those who are working on behalf of the Canadian P.O.W. in Germany. I greatly appreciate all you are doing and the splendid manner in which you have looked after me during the past months deserves every praise, and I am grateful to you all. The parcels of food and clothing arrive without failure regularly and contain every requirement. With every good wish for the New Year I once again thank you all for your great kindness.
I remain,
Canadian P.O.W.

Canadian Red Cross Society, June-July 1918

Many people are glad to "adopt" prisoners either wholly or partially by subscribing towards their 30s. worth of foodstuffs every fortnight. These parcels are sent in the name of the subscriber, and the prisoner is asked to acknowledge the receipt direct. For this purpose two postcards are enclosed in each parcel, one addressed to the Canadian Red Cross—as it is essential that a check should be kept as to how a man is receiving his parcels—and the other unaddressed, which can be sent to the subscriber. These acknowledgments do not count in a man's correspondence, which is, of course, strictly limited. It should be added that all prisoners, whether "adopted" or not, receive exactly the same amount.

It is no exaggeration to say that the Canadian Red Cross Society has through the Prisoners of War Department saved hundreds of lives. Many Canadian repatriated prisoners of war had said that they could not have lived had it not been for the Canadian Red Cross parcels.

*Canadian Gazette*, 26 Sept. 1918

### Battle-scarred Veterans and Exchanged Prisoners Return Home After Seeing Various Kinds of Service Overseas.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA BIG CHANGE FROM GERMANY

### Worst Thing Captured Men Found While Guests of the Kaiser Was Food, but Parcels from Canada Helped.

"After Germany, well, this is certainly a change that at times I did not expect would ever come," last night declared Sergt. D. Reed, one of about sixty exchanged Canadian prisoners who came back to Canada on the last ship bringing back wounded men to the various convalescent homes. The crowd which arrived at the C.P.R. depot at 10:30, numbered, besides men who had been prisoners, heroes of Ypres, the Somme and Vimy Ridge. The returned men were very shy at telling of the battles they passed through and in which they got their wounds or the terrible hardships which invalided them home, but they all bore the various scars of battle, some walking with canes, others with arms in slings, but for all that not in the least downhearted. Upon their arrival they marched from the train up to the quarters especially set aside for their reception and were noisily welcomed by a big crowd and happily welcomed by their wives, sweethearts or sisters and received the strong handshake of father or brother.

Sergeant Reed left Vancouver with the Sixth battalion and was with Captain Scudamore when taken prisoner at the second battle of Ypres on April 24, 1915. He was in the Internment camp at Giessen with Private Todd of the Seventh, who was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for refusing to work at "war work." He was a prisoner for sixteen months, but thirteen months of the time was spent in Switzerland, waiting to be exchanged. Sergeant Reed had very little to say about the Hun cruelties practiced on Canadian prisoners.

**Food Bad in Prison Camps.**

Another exchanged prisoner who arrived with the returned men last night was Private T. E. Owen who also was captured during the second battle of Ypres. He was imprisoned in the Internment camp at Paderborn, Germany, for thirteen months before his exchange took place. "The worst thing I found during my sojourn in Germany," he said, "was the food. The kaiser's board wasn't up to much. But after parcels began to arrive from Vancouver it wasn't quite so bad." Parcels to the prisoners at that time got through all right, according to Private Owen.

*Vancouver Sun*, 6 Nov. 1917, p. 5

# Courage... Patriotism...

## The Victoria Cross: For Conspicuous Bravery

I cannot refrain from telling you of some of the superhuman deeds our records disclose. Let us tell you of the conduct of Sergeant Hugh Cairns, late of the 46th Battalion, Saskatchewan Regiment. He was recommended for and awarded the Victoria Cross for most conspicuous bravery before Valenciennes on November 1st, 1918. When a machine gun opened fire on his platoon, without a moment's hesitation Sergeant Cairns seized a Lewis gun and single handed, in the face of direct fire, rushed the post, killed the crew of five, and captured the gun. A little later the line was again held up by machine gun fire. Sergeant Cairns again rushed forward and alone killed twelve of the enemy, captured eighteen prisoners and two machine guns. Here he was wounded in the shoulder. Subsequently when the advance was again held up by the fire of machine guns and field guns, he led a small party to outflank them, killed many and forced about fifty Germans to surrender. Here we captured a number of machine guns and five field guns. After consolidation he joined a battle patrol which was pushing out to exploit towards Marly. It came on a yard filled with Germans. The officer in charge of the patrol, Sergeant Cairns with his Lewis gun, and two others, broke open the door and entered the yard, Cairns firing his machine gun from the hip. About sixty Germans threw up their hands in token of surrender, but one of their officers passed in front of them and when close to Cairns shot the latter through the body with his revolver. Cairns sank to his knees, but again opened fire with his machine gun. The fighting became general, the enemy picking up their arms and opening fire. Sergeant Cairns was shot through the wrist but he continued firing, inflicting heavy casualties. A moment later the butt of his gun was smashed by enemy bullets, and he collapsed from weakness and loss of blood. The officer and one of the other men held the enemy at bay, while the other comrades dragged Sergeant Cairns from the yard. Others of the patrol came up and, placing him on a door panel, attempted to get him away. The enemy opened fire on this stretcher, killing one man and again wounding Cairns. By this time more of the patrol had joined in the fighting and what was left of the Germans in the yard were forced to surrender. As the record says of Sergeant Cairns, "through the operation he showed the highest degree of valor and his leadership greatly attributed to the success of the attack." He died on November 2nd from wounds.

—*From a speech by* Sir Arthur Currie PAC 1920 4973

Military honours awarded to Canadians during the war.

| | |
|---|---|
| Victoria Cross | 53 |
| Distinguished Service Order | 513 |
| Military Cross | 1,882 |
| Distinguished Conduct Medal | 1,186 |
| Military Medal | 6,697 |

Lance-Corporal Frederick Fisher of the 13th Battalion won Canada's first Victoria Cross at the Second Battle of Ypres, April, 1915.

Foreign military honours awarded to Canadians during the war.

| | |
|---|---|
| From France | 410 |
| Serbia | 7 |
| Italy | 28 |
| Russia | 159 |
| Belgium | 7 |

OPA 1919 7

## Of Sixteen Sons, Ten Are Killed

**Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Ball, of Fourteenth Avenue, Have Made Great Sacrifice; Six Remaining Boys Serving.**

Out of 16 sons who enlisted, Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Ball, 2285 Fourteenth avenue west, have lost no fewer than 10. Mrs. Ball herself is crippled from wounds sustained while acting as a nurse during the Boer War. Her husband is advanced in years. She sent in a strongly worded plea to the board of works for the planking of a lane in the rear of her premises so as to afford her more convenient access to get supplies in to her home. She mentioned that five sons and 11 step-sons had enlisted. The other details were supplied by Alderman Gale, who supported her request.

The details of this record sacrifice from one family, as told to Alderman Gale to the aldermen, show that Mrs. Ball, then a widow of an Australian doctor, came here with her five grown-up sons in 1910. Over a year later she married her present husband, who was a widower with 11 husky sons. Up to the time of the outbreak of the war, six of the sons who still made their home with Mr. and Mrs. Ball.

After the outbreak of war six of the sons joined about the same time, one by one the others followed. The first casualties to the family came, the history res. The Festubert, St. Eloi and Vimy I engagements took further grim toll of the 15 members of the Ball family until all five of Mrs. Ball's own sons and five of her step-sons are dead.

*Vancouver Sun*, 12 Dec. 1917 p. 1

## Soldiers Laugh and Sing

"Sore toe, has he?
Then paint his neck with iodine."
OPA A-2 A Christmas Garland

Little Willie: "Say Papa! I wonder if there will ever be universal peace."
Papa: "Sure! All they have to do is to get the nations to agree that in the case of war the winner pays the pensions."
OPA A-2 A Christmas Garland

"Keep your head down and you will be able to call "stretcher bearer" for the other fellow."
OPA A-2 A Christmas Garland

Iodine – a wonderful medicine, a miraculous remedy for all aches, pains and ills; cures blistered heels and stomach aches if applied to the neck.
OPA A-2 A Christmas Garland

"It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for an officer to explain how an accident occurred."
OPA A-2 A Christmas Garland

"Jack and Bill, they stuck it till,
Their knees were under water;
Jack fell down and said to Bill,
Some words he didn't oughter."
OPA A-2 A Christmas Garland

He: There goes the honestest girl in the world.
She: How's that?
He: She won't even take a kiss without returning it.
OPA A-1-2 The Growler

"Little swigs of SRD,
Tiny bits of rum,
Make the Bomber sit and think
Where the noise comes from."
OPA A-2 A Christmas Garland

Rank: I say sir, what is this swelling on the back of my neck?
M.O.: I don't quite know. It's nothing serious, but you better keep your eye on it.
OPA A-1-2 The Growler

"How long has it been raining?" asked the passenger as he alighted at Belgium.
"Don't know," said the Canuck "I've only been here eleven months."
OPA A-1-2 The Growler

After an attack two Highlanders lay flat to escape the awful hail that swept the zone of fire. Dusk came down, and Jock whispered hoarsely to his pal, "Let's make a move, Alec." "Can't boy, I've got it in the leg." "Then get on top of my back and I will carry you in." "No fear laddy. Would mean a V.C. for you and for me another bullet in the back."
OPA A-1 The Record

### SONGS OF THE TROOPS

Oh, What a Lovely War

Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag

Tipperary

Mademoiselle from Armentières

Has Anyone Seen the Colonel

Oh, see him in the House of Commons,
Passing laws to put down crime,
While the victims of his passions
Trudge on in mud and slime.
B. Gardner, *Up the Line to Death*, p. 107

D'ye ken Sam Hughes
He's the foe of booze
He's the one champeen
Of a dry canteen.
Oh we'll all go to bed
For the camp is dead
And we won't have a head
In the morn ____ing!
L. Worthington, *Amid the Guns Below*, p. 8

If you want the old battalion,
We know where they are
– Hanging on the old barbed wire.
B. Gardner, *Up the Line to Death*, p. 79

Why did we join the army, boys?
Why did we join the army?
Why did we come to France to fight?
We must have been bloody well barmy.
B. Gardner, *Up the Line to Death*, p. 117

We're here because we're here
Because we're here, because we're here;
We're here because we're here
Because we're here, because we're here.
B. Gardner, *Up the Line to Death*, p. 127

Send for the boys of the Old Brigade
To keep old England free!
Send for me father and me mother
and me brother
But for Gawd's sake don't send me.
B. Gardner, *Up the Line to Death*, p. 79



# and Propaganda

## Enemy atrocities reported in Canada

"But how about a woman's body I saw, with her hands and feet cut off? How about a white-haired man and his son whom I helped bury outside Sempstad, who had been killed merely because a retreating Belgian had shot a German soldier outside their house? There were twenty-two bayonet wounds on the old man's face. I counted them. How about the little girl 2 years old who was shot while in her mother's arms by a Uhlan, and whose funeral I attended at Baystopdenberg? How about the old man who was hung from the rafters in his house by his hands and roasted to death by a bonfire being built under him?"
T. H. Russell, *World's Greatest War*, pp. 116-117

"The dead body of a child of two was seen pinned to the ground with a German lance."
"A pregnant woman had been wounded with a bayonet and was discovered in the convent. She was dying."
"A paralytic was murdered in his garden."
"Four hundred Belgian civilians, men, women, and children, were placed in front of the Germans, who then engaged the French."
PAC 1916 4362

**THE ANTI-GERMAN LEAGUE**

The Undersigned loyal Britisher, in full accord with the principles advocated by the Anti-German League applies for membership and encloses a subscription of_____

Name _____

Address _____

To C. H. Blackmore
152 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario
OPA C-3-I

**TO THE WOMEN OF CANADA**

1. You have read what the Germans have done in Belgium. Have you thought what they would do if they invaded this Country
2. Do you realize that the safety of your home and children depends on our getting more men NOW
3. Do you realize that the one word "GO" from you may send another man to fight for our King and Country
4. When the War is over and someone asks your husband or your son what he did in the great War, is he to hang his head because you would not let him go

**WON'T YOU HELP AND SEND A MAN TO ENLIST TO-DAY?**

**Poster Slogans**

We'll Get Them

Won't You Help And
Send a Man to Enlist Today?

Fall In

Answer Now In Your
Country's Hour of Need.

Over the Top

The Hun is at the Gate

Forward to Victory

The Watchers of the Seas

"Be Honest With
Yourself. Be Certain
That Your So-Called
Reason Is Not A
Selfish Excuse."

"Come Along Boys
Enlist Today"

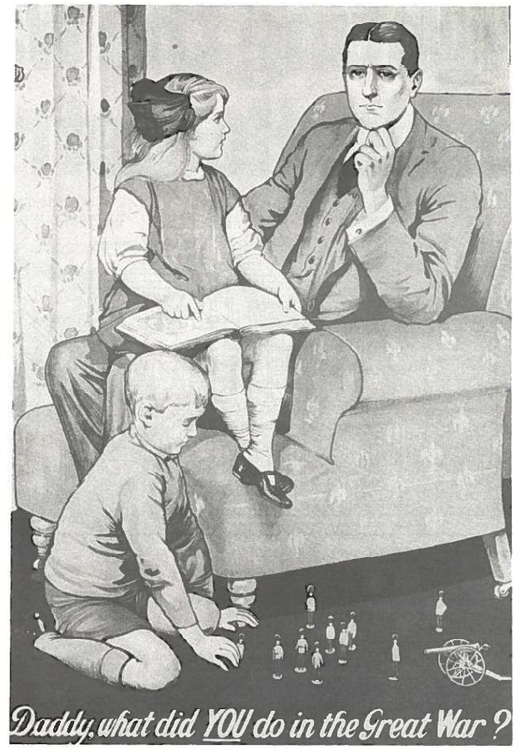
You Said You Would Go
When You Were Needed
You Are Needed Now.

Take Up The
Sword of Justice

Women of Britain Say Go!

Under the Defence of the Realm Act a Press Bureau was established which:

1. Prohibited the publication of information about enemy air raids, the amount of damages, the number of hits, and the names of the places hit.
2. Prohibited the publication of any military information of possible use to Germany.
3. Prevented the circulation of any stories which tended to magnify the German victories. OPA 1916 34




**Recommended Techniques for Poster Design.**

1. Must have immediate mass appeal regardless of race, culture, wealth, ancestry, position or religion.
2. Should attract eye at a distance.
3. Should be idealistic, not realistic.
4. Must be taken in by single stroke of the eye.
5. Should seduce the casual spectator.
6. Must appeal to a helter-skelter public.
7. Must implant a sense of righteousness into the viewer.
8. Minimize the concept of time. PAC 1918 4748

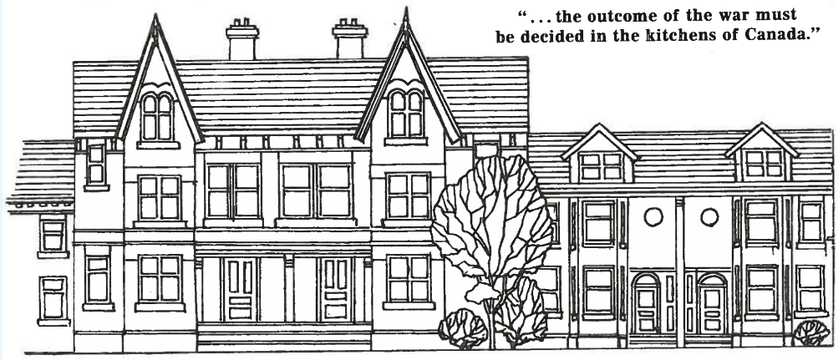
**German Girls Forced to Pilot Planes Under Penalty of Death**

HELENA, Mont., Oct. 30.—A letter received here today from Dr. Philip G. Cole, of Helena, a surgeon with the American expeditionary forces at the front in France, says a German bombing plane recently forced to descend in the American sector, proved to be piloted by a girl of 16, who said she was compelled under penalty of death, first to learn to fly and later to guide bombing planes over the Entente front. She said many other girls were operating war planes under the same circumstances.

*Vancouver Sun*, 31 Oct. 1917 p. 1

"If German agents see a way to injure Canada, they will stop at nothing to compass their ends. Arson to them is a commonplace and murder an incident in the day's work. The destruction of the Parliament Building may have been the result of an accident, but the general belief at Ottawa is that it was the work of an incendiary." T. H. Russell, *World's Greatest War*, p. 448

# Fighting the War on the Homefront



**"... the outcome of the war must be decided in the kitchens of Canada."**

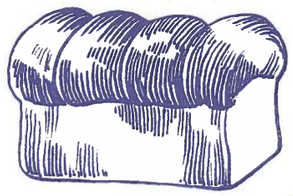
## By reducing food consumption...

"If there has been waste (of food stuffs) investigation is made, and if it resulted from carelessness ... the offender is prosecuted." PAC 1918 4707

Recommended one day menu for a hard working man which would conserve essential food products for the war.

| Breakfast | Dinner | Supper |
|---|---|---|
| Oatmeal | Pork Chop | Bean Soup |
| Creamed Cod | Mashed Potatoes | Corn Muffins |
| Brown bread | Carrots | Butter |
| Butter | Bread | Sliced bananas |
| Milk for oatmeal | Steamed pudding | Cookies |
| Sugar | Milk for coffee | Tea and milk |
| Coffee | Sugar | Sugar |

PAC 1917 4571



"All bakers have been required to discontinue the manufacture of fancy bread ..."
Government Regulation
PAC 1918 4707

The food controller's office suggested that the weekly consumption of a family of five should not exceed:
10 lbs of meat or substitutes
20 lbs of cereal
20 lbs of potatoes
28 lbs of vegetables and fruit
3 lbs of fat products
14 qts of milk. PAC 1917 4571

**Mush.** —Next to oatmeal, mush is about the best porridge. It takes much more water, and takes much longer to cook. About six cups of water to one of meal. Dampen the meal well, then stir into the boiling water, to which salt has been added. About two hours' cooking is required.

**Fried Mush** — Fried mush is really a delicious substitute for potatoes, or to serve with steak, roasts, sweetbread, sausage — any meat dish in fact. Left-over mush will do, but it is better not cooked quite done at first, then poured into a dish about 1¼ inch thick to cool. Cut in squares, or better, form into flat balls or cakes, roll in flour or bread crumbs, and fry to a delicate brown.
PAC 1916 4335

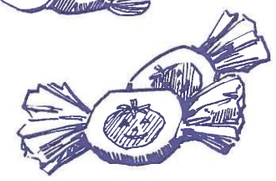
**Advice to the Housewife**

1. Use nut-butter or margarine.
2. Remake leftover bread into new bread, cake, or pudding.
3. Instead of one beefless day, why not try for six to make up for people less patriotic?
4. Eat as little cake and pastry as you can.
5. Use oats, corn, barley and rye instead of wheat.
6. Use ham and pork bones in other dishes.
7. Chew your food thoroughly — you will be satisfied with less.
8. All kinds of cold cereal can be saved, and when not enough to roll into balls to fry, they can be used in batter cakes and corn breads.
9. Cut each slice of bread as required.
10. Mix your own cleanser (use white sand, washing soda, soap and chalk).
11. Fifty million dollars is thrown away in garbage cans annually.
12. Do not display the joint of meat on the table. It is an inducement to eat more than you need.
13. Do not eat both butter *and* jam with bread.

War Meals — 1917
Win the War — 1916
OPA C-24 Canada Food Bill

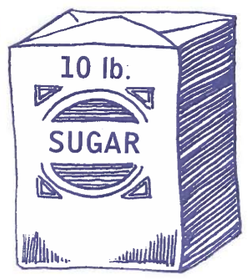
Before the war started the average Canadian consumed 29 pounds of fish each year. By 1917, because of efforts of the government, the consumption rose to 125 pounds. OPA C-2-1

"In November, 1917, it was forbidden by the Dominion Government, as a war measure, to use food stuffs in the distillation of liquors."
PAC 1918 4707

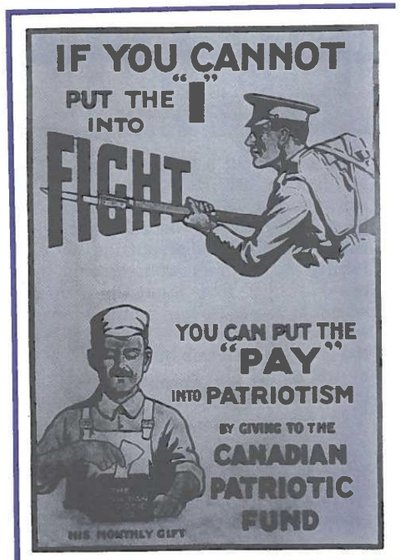


As an act of patriotism and in order to help out the war effort the women of Saint John, New Brunswick abandoned a planned candy sale.

"It is unpatriotic to buy or use candies that are made of cane or beet sugar." PAC 1918 4707




The sugar content of candy must be reduced by 50%. Confectioners are prohibited from making French pastries.
Government Regulation
PAC 1918 4707




## By helping war-wives.....

The Canadian Patriotic Fund was established during the War to raise money to help support the wives and families of soldiers serving overseas. In April of 1915 $273,423.90 was distributed to 14,615 families. The average payment to each family was $18.71. The maximum daily payment for a family of four would be:

| | |
|---|---|
| Mother | 1.00 |
| Child—12 years | .25 |
| Child—8 years | .15 |
| Child—4 years | .10 |

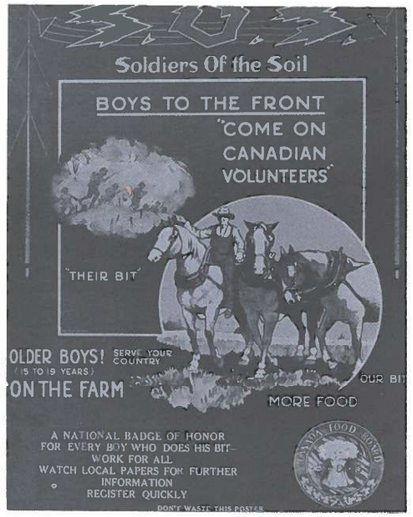
By September of 1915, 26,000 families were receiving $375,000 from the Canadian Patriotic Fund. OPA 1915 2

The export value of munitions and materials during the war grew rapidly.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1914 ..... | $28,164 |
| 1915 ..... | $57,213,688 |
| 1916 ..... | $296,505,257 |
| 1917 ..... | $388,213,553 |
| 1918 ..... | $260,711,751 |

OPA 1919 7

## By producing more food...




**"Soldiers of the Soil"**

**During the war 11,952 boys between 15 and 19 were enrolled and placed on farms to help do the chores and overcome the labour shortage.** OPA 1919 7

## By recruiting children to work for the war effort.

### Baden-Powell Issues Instructions to Scouts

### Boys May be of Material Service to Empire

*Vancouver Sun*, 25 Aug. 1914

To help win the war Boy Scouts in England and the Dominions were urged to

- — supply free labour for odd jobs around the community.
- — camp near water supplies to prevent German agents from poisoning the water.
- — serve as guides near stations and docks.
- — care for the gardens of men who were at the front.
- — guard and patrol bridges, culverts, telegraph lines.
- — aid the sick and wounded.
- — establish first aid stations.
- — operate refugee and soup kitchens.
- — deliver notices.
- — serve as signal riders.
- — guide vessels.

**"We must produce all we can, waste nothing and shift our consumption as much as practicable from wheat, flour, beef and bacon to other foods. The other foods are just as wholesome for us but are not as suitable for shipment overseas in wartime."**
PAC 1917 4571
*Food Controller of Canada 1917*

The Canadian farmers contributed to the war effort by greatly increasing their food production and permitting the government to export more.

| Commodity | 1913 | 1918 |
|---|---|---|
| Butter (pounds) | 3,633,825 | 4,926,154 |
| Eggs (dozens) | 158,217 | 4,896,793 |
| Wheat (bushels) | 92,686,291 | 150,342,037 |
| Bacon (pounds) | 40,000,000 | 200,000,000 |
| Beef (pounds) | 5,000,000 | 87,000,000 |
| Value (dollars) | 189,000,000 | 833,000,000 |

OPA 1919 7

| Exports of | 1914 | 1918 |
|---|---|---|
| The Mine | $53,084,863 | $79,650,972 |
| The Fisheries | 18,661,560 | 34,129,743 |
| The Forest | 41,523,344 | 66,857,990 |
| Animal Produce | 70,727,132 | 181,391,749 |
| Agricultural Products | 126,262,825 | 326,974,133 |
| Manufactures | 71,870,071 | 555,725,934 |
| Miscellaneous | 549,920 | 5,119,826 |
| Total | $382,679,715 | $1,249,850,347 |

J. C. Hopkins, *Canada at War*, p. 215

In 1918 the federal government introduced daylight saving time to conserve electricity. This measure was very unpopular with farmers.

**A ton of coal is needed to produce three big shells.**
OPA A-3 Dead Horse Corner Gazette

# Women and the War Effort

*A special appeal was made to the women of Canada to enlist their assistance in recruiting the men who refused to join the army.*

**You entertain these wretched apologies in your homes. You accept their donations, their theatre tickets, their flowers, their cars. You go with them to watch the troops parade.**

**You foully wrong their manhood by encouraging them to perform their parlor tricks while Europe is burning up.**

**While Canada is in imminent danger of suffering the same were it not for the millions who are cheerfully enduring the horrors and privations of bloody warfare for the millions who stay at home watching the war pictures and drinking tea.**

**Bar them out, you women. Refuse their invitations, scorn their attentions. For the love of Heaven, if they won't be men, then you be women. Tell them to come in uniform, no matter how soiled or misfitting—bar out the able-bodied man who has no obligations, show that you despise him. Tell him to join the colors while he can do so with honor. And the day is not far off when he will have to go. The old mother has issued the last call to her sons.**

**Make your son, your husband, your lover, your brother, join now while he yet retains the remnants of honor. Compulsory training is in the offing.**

**Get the apologist, the weakling, the mother's pet, into the service. Weed out all, and we will find out who are the cowards. Analyze your friends—you women—refuse their attentions, and tell them why. Make them wake up.** OPA C-2-II Royal Grenadiers Overseas Battalion

*Women excelled at doing meticulous work. Here they are soldering the cap of a No. 80 fuse.*

It is interesting to note that in practically every instance the world over, where women have substituted on the land, they have been accepted grudgingly by the farmer and parted with regretfully . . . The verdict of the farmers themselves at the end of their first season with "farmerettes" is that they are far superior to the "typical hired man" who is too often content to be simply "the man with the hoe."

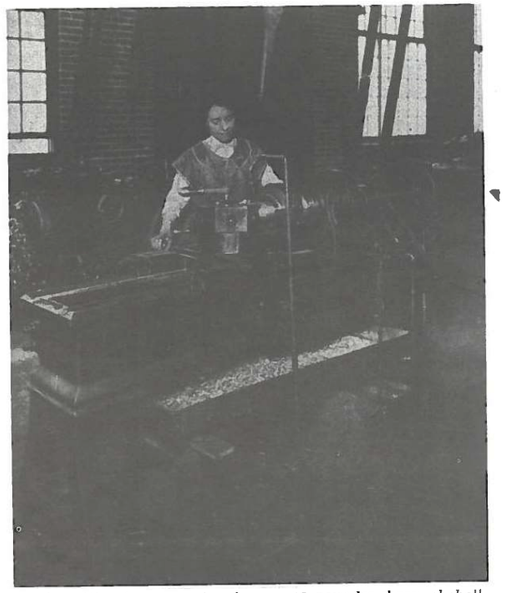
OPA C-2-I From Support and Substitution Pamphlet

SEPARATION ALLOWANCES

To provide for the needs of the dependents of soldiers a separation allowance is paid to a lawful wife, a wife separated by a court which decrees husband must support her, legitimate children (payable to guardian), a widow whose sole support is her son, etc. at the following rates.

| | |
|---|---|
| Colonel | $60.00 per month |
| Major | 50.00 per month |
| Captain | 40.00 per month |
| Lieutenant | 30.00 per month |
| Rank and file | 20.00 per month |

When a separation allowance is being paid on behalf of a soldier, it is compulsory for him to assign to his dependent at least one-half his pay. PAC 1917 4573



*Undercutting for copper bond on an 18-pounder shrapnel shell*

The following articles were shipped from Glengarry Branch to 45 Belmont Park, Montreal. Shipments extending from November 10th, 1915 to Sept. 10, 1916.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1,118 | Flannel shirts |
| 6 | Khaki shirts |
| 526 | Surgical shirts |
| 456 | Bed jackets |
| 836 | Pyjamas |
| 21 | Dressing gowns |
| 2 | Convalescent robes |
| 175 | Sheets |
| 671 | Pillow cases |
| 679 | Towels |
| 6,837 | Handkerchiefs |
| 1,453 | Wash cloths |
| 720 | Mouth wipes |
| 1,270 | Slings |
| 38 | Khaki slings |
| 4,634 | Roller bandages |
| 124 | Triangular bandages |
| 69 | T bandages |
| 214 | Personal property bags (filled) |
| 27 | Comfort Bags (filled) |
| 18 | Quilts |
| 150 | Dressings |
| 1,000 | Sponges |
| 2,576 | Pairs socks |
| 13 | Scarfs |
| 160 | Pairs cuffs |
| 483 | Pairs mitts |
| 19 | Pairs bed socks |
| 65 | Pairs knitted bed socks |
| 8 | Feather pillows |
| 44 | Rest pillows |
| 616 | Christmas stockings |
| 152 | Bed pads |
| 52 | Jars jam |
| 16 | 1—2 lbs maple sugar |
| 2 | Gallons maple syrup |
| 25,254 | |

OPA C-5 Annual Report of the Red Cross Society of Glengarry 1916

*Overhauling a Curtiss OX-5 eng*

*Ambulance driver at the front, May 1917*

. . . women in every grade of life and labour did something, gave something, helped in some way; if there were a number who were ignorant or selfish or indifferent the proportion was less than amongst the men. Society everywhere was very quiet after August, 1914, and through the succeeding years; display in dress and luxury in entertainment, or expenditure, were abandoned very largely, or at least upon the surface. The domestic labour problem, too, became very complex and difficult as so many working women came into incomes which relieved them from the absolute necessity of outside work while, also, large numbers of young girls became independent through their marriage with men going to the Front, and others found the monetary rewards of factories and munition work far beyond those of domestic service. The problem directly affected social and war conditions. Many women found that they had to do housework and look after their children as well as perform patriotic duties; many younger and unattached women in sudden possession of large wages gave little time to any work of a patriotic character.

. . . thousands of women did voluntary work on the farms during the food production campaigns and more than 1,000 young women were employed in the Royal Air Force; about 5,000 women were employed in Civil Service work of a war character, while 75,000 gave their services in the compilation . . . J. C. Hopkins, *Canada at War*, p. 260

Wives, Sisters and Mothers, do your part in upholding the Glorious Freedom of the British Empire by encouraging our young men to assist in this, the greatest of all Emergencies.

*Recruiting poster*

"The Dorcas Club"

The Dorcas Club was established to permit single ladies an opportunity to contribute to the war effort. Between January and May of 1917, with a membership of 17 ladies, 67 sets of pajamas, 101 pair socks, and 125 box linings were made for the men at the front.

From the minutes:
"March 26, 1917—Agree to meet and sew every night."

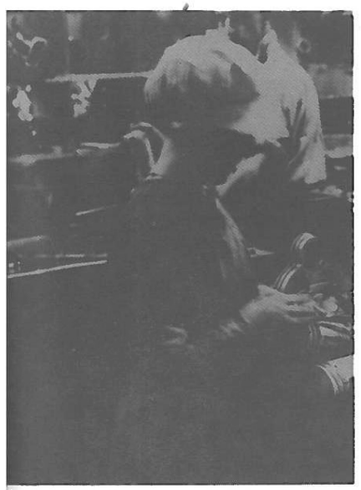
"Because of the coal shortage meetings will be cancelled during the winter of 1918."

"Everyone will bring $1.00 to fill a comfort bag at the next meeting."

OPA C-4-IV

**Women's organizations involved in war work.**

Women's Institutes
Women's Red Cross and Patriotic Fund
Toronto Women's Patriotic League
Women's Toronto Conservative Club
Toronto Women's Liberal Club
Women's Grain Growers Association of the West
Women's National Service Committee
Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire
Women's Christian and Temperance Union
Victorian Order of Nurses
Queen Mary's Needlework Guild



*t Camp Mohawk, Deseronto*

"Then I was put in the Operating Room and as I told you, we three girls had 291 operations in ten nights so that will give you a fair idea of a week's work."

*Letter from a nurse, 12 miles behind the lines.* OPA 1918 33

2,400 women went Overseas as Nurses in the C.E.F. and served in England, France, Belgium, Egypt, Greece, and Russia. They were posted for duty in base hospitals, clearing stations, ambulance trains and hospital ships, and there were also 527 on duty in Canada. They had war casualties of 18 deaths by bombs or submarines with 15 dead of disease. The Canadian V.A.D.'s on active service were 342, and the honours awarded to Nurses, etc., from Canada included 4 Military Medals and 192 Royal Red Cross Medals of the 1st and 2nd class. J. C. Hopkins, *Canada at War*, p. 259

***Burial of Canadian nurses killed in an enemy air raid, May 1918.***

**Role of Women**

2,000 enlisted as nurses
30,000 worked in munition factories
1,000 worked for the Royal Air Force
6,000 were employed in the civil service.

PAC 1918-4707

# Religion and War

At the same time, even Christ shows the fighting spirit sometimes
and will not accept peace at any price. His indignation blazes forth
against greed and hypocrisy. He is angry at the proper time because he
is merciful, because His supreme passion at whatever cost is TO
SWEEP THE EARTH CLEAN OF THE EVILS WHICH DEFILE IT . . . It
will be our fault, then, if we do not MAKE THIS WAR A HOLY WAR
that fires us with moral enthusiasm, as well as undaunted courage; a
war in which we can humbly, but sincerely, invoke the help of God; a
war in defence of justice and freedom; a war which has no meaner
purpose than the establishment of Christian principles among the
nations of the world . . . God bless our boys who have gone or may yet
go across the sea. We mourn for those who have fallen, and pray that
a Divine comfort may rest upon the homes which they shall see no
more . . .
For we need more men in training to take some part in this great
war . . . I see IN IMAGINATION A STALWART HOST OF YOUNG
CANADIANS MARCHING AS TO WAR. The cause they espouse should
nerve their arm and ennoble their character. They will be compassed
about with a great cloud of witnesses who watch their valorous deeds
and anticipate their final victory. THE HEROES OF PAST DAYS will
seem to share their high endeavour, and from myriads on earth the
voice of suppliant prayer will mingle in its ascent to God with shouts
of conflict and shock of arms. If when peace has come again, they
return to the land they have left behind, they will be greeted with the
welcome which befits those who have done their duty, and IF THEY
ARE CALLED ON TO LAY THE SACRIFICE OF THEIR LIVES ON THE
ALTAR OF FREEDOM, THEIR NAMES WILL BE ENROLLED IN THE
RANKS OF THE IMMORTAL, AND THEIR MEMORY CHERISHED BY
GENERATIONS YET UNBORN.
Portions of a Recruiting Sermon: Preached in Ottawa's St.
Andrew's Church, by Rev. W. T. Herridge, M.A., D.O. on
June 27, 1915.
OPA 1915 25

**A Prayer for Wartime. . . .**

Let us unite in intercession to God.

For our Navy and Army, for all officers, non-commissioned officers and men; and especially for the sons of our own homes and churches who are serving. Inspire them with faith and hope, with reverence and a high sense of honour, with tenacity in reverses, and mercifulness in the hour of success. Grant that at every post, in every task, through every emergency of duty on land and sea, in the air and beneath the waves they may have about them Thy Guardianship and the Angel of Thy presence.

We beseech Thee to hear us O Lord.

For all who are striken in the field of battle in all the armies, our own and the enemies'; that the wounded may have Thy healing and the dying Thy peace and assurance. For all who are prisoners and captives of war, for all doctors, nurses and chaplains, as they minister healing and consolation . . .

We beseech Thee to hear us O Lord.

Queen's Park, Toronto
Sunday, 28 April, 1918
PAC 1918 4739

*The folly of war as seen at Courcelette or what was left of it. October 1916*

"I am writing this on Easter Sunday and some of us attended a Protestant service this morning held in a little Church Army hut erected near camp during the week. This has been our first opportunity to attend church this year. . . ."

OPA 1918 33 *Letter from the front*

. . . . as Canada is officially and effectively participating in this war, it is within the province of a bishop or a priest to urge the members of his flock to fulfill their war duties. For one cannot be a good Christian if one is a bad citizen. He who is disloyal to his country is disloyal to the Church. He who is only partially patriotic is only partially religious, for patriotism is a virtue.

PAC 1916 4428 *Major Rev. Dr. John J. O'Gorman, 1916*

As of January 1, 1917 the activities of the Roman Catholic chaplains attached to the Canadian Army included:

| | |
|---|---|
| 99,583 | communions |
| 65,094 | confessions |
| 1,820 | parade masses |
| 3,747 | religious services |
| 4,614 | last rites |
| 1,366 | burials |
| 4,468 | letters written home for soldiers |

— Report to the Roman Catholic Church, 1918 PAC 1918 4718

The padres in the Chaplain Service could do much for morale. In the first years before the Salvation Army and Y.M.C.A. got going, the padres rounded up entertainment and social activities behind the lines, visited hospitals and casualty clearing stations, served hot coffee to chilled soldiers in the line, wrote next-of-kin. Church services were of lesser importance. A padre's value was judged, not by the number of men he approached, but by the number who voluntarily sought him. L. Worthington, *Amid the Guns Below*, p. 41

Because of the "evils of drink and lewd women" a chaplain was posted in London to shepherd soldiers on leave to the Catholic Women's League Hut. There they would be provided with wholesome entertainment, be provided with tickets for the theatre and be reminded of their religious duty. PAC 1918 4718

Number of chaplains serving with the Canadian army.

| | |
|---|---|
| Division | 17 chaplains |
| Cavalry brigade | 3 chaplains |
| General hospital | 3 chaplains |
| Stationary hospital | 3 chaplains |
| Casualty clearing station | 3 chaplains |

PAC 1918 4718

. . . and that Salvation Army fellow made us bowls of soup, gave us biscuits galore and a wonderful dessert of canned fruit. Every front-line soldier of World War I knew that his true friend was the man in the Salvation Army canteen. W. R. Bird, *Ghosts Have Warm Hands*, p. 101

## REAL RELIGION IN FRONT LINE TRENCH

### Rev. Major C. W. Gordon Tells Big Crowd at Orpheum of Experiences at Front—War Turns Hearts to God.

**That the presence of God in the trenches of France and Flanders is felt more than anywhere else, was a declaration made yesterday afternoon by Rev. Major C. W. Gordon (Ralph Connor), at the Orpheum theatre, which was packed to the roof. Although the place was packed, the crowd could easily have been duplicated by the number that were turned away. The meeting was under the auspices of the Ministerial association and the vice-president, George H. Welch, occupied the chair and introduced the famous preacher, lecturer and novelist.**

Major Gordon said that he never really understood what God meant till he had walked up to the front line trenches and saw the star shells. When these went up and burst, making the night as light as day, a man felt very big and wanted to find a hole. Then, in the long distance, could be heard the whine of a shell that rushed at one, getting louder till it passed like ten thousand trains.

"Nothing," he said, "makes a man so humble as a good, big shell."

Major Gordon said at first he wanted to get away to some place, but the trouble was where to go. A shell would burst just behind, the next one to the right or left or in front.

**The Nearness of God.**

To his mind came the thought that it was great that God could be nearer than a shell. He forgot all about religion and prayer, but seemed to have a grip on God.

"I never in my experience met so much real religion as in the hearts of the boys as they moved up to the front line trenches," he said. He was not sure that the folks at home looked on the boys at the front as saints, but he considered them so and so, he was sure, did God. After the war, said the speaker, religion would be a much simpler thing. War, he said, was the loneliest thing that ever struck a man. Every step of the long, long trail to the front, gets round a man's heart like the chill of a fog. In the hour of loneliness the man with religion in his heart got great comfort.

**Tribute to Y.M.C.A.**

Rev. Major Gordon told interesting stories of the work of the war chaplain, and paid a great tribute to the Y.M.C.A. work at the front. All denominations work together—Protestant parson and Catholic priest. The speaker told one very gripping incident. He was called to attend a man who was dying. He asked the man if he wished him to pray. The dying man said he did, but that he belonged to a different denomination. Rev. Gordon asked if he was an "R.C." The man said he was. Rev. Gordon sought among the other men for a cross, but could not get one, so he cut a twig, formed it as a cross, and placed it to the man's lips. The wounded man's face lighted up and he whispered, "I see," then passed to his long sleep.

*Vancouver Sun*, 29 Oct. 1917

*Abbé Thuliez holds a Thanksgiving service in Cambrai Cathedral during the advance on Arras 13 October 1918*

*"Every man and woman in Canada can help win this war by practising self-denial"....*

"Honour Button. Patriotic Owners of Victory Bonds Wear This Button."

# Paying for a War

## With Savings Bonds...

SUGGESTIONS FOR SPEAKERS

Begin with a strong, positive, concrete statement, – something that will immediately arrest the attention of your audience. Example – state at once Proceeds of Loan, 1918, – spent 3/5 for war costs, ⅓ for farm products – All spent in Canada.

Avoid oratory. Fine phrases will weaken rather than strengthen your speech.

Talk in plain, human manner. Use simple language. Avoid preaching and moralizing.

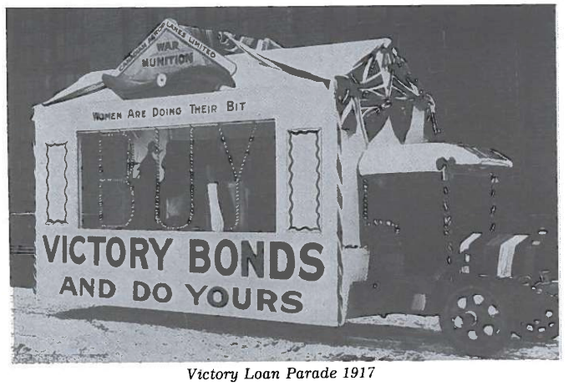
When you make a strong point, pause – let it sink in.

Use an anecdote or illustration only to drive home a thought.

Speak distinctly. Try to reach the person farthest from the platform.

Speak with authority. Remember that you represent Canada, and do not let your audience forget it.

Finally, finish strong. Beware of an anti-climax. OPA 1919 The Victory Loan




*Victory Loan Parade 1917*

**Money raised in Canada through borrowing from the public.**

| Year | Maturity | % Rate | Amount Raised | Subscribers |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1915 | 1925 | 5% | $100 000 000 | 24 862 |
| 1916 | 1931 | 5% | 100 000 000 | 34 526 |
| 1917 | 1937 | 5% | 139 000 000 | 41 000 |
| 1917 | 1937 | 5½% | 398 000 000 | 820 035 |
| 1918 | 1938 | 5½% | 660 000 000 | 1,067 879 |

**Canada's Public Debt**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1911 | $350,000,000 |
| 1914 | 350,000,000 |
| 1915 | 475,000,000 |
| 1916 | 625,000,000 |
| 1917 | 900,000,000 |
| 1918 | 1,175,000,000 |

OPA 1919 7

During 1918 the war cost Canada over one million dollars per day. PAC 1918 4696

By March of 1919 the war had cost Canada about $1,300,000,000. PAC 1918 4696



## And Taxes...

**Income War Tax Act: 1917**

| *Income* | | *Single* | *Married* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1,500 | | exempt | |
| 2,000 | 4% on 500 | 20.00 | |
| 3,000 | on 1,500 | 60.00 | exempt |
| 4,000 | on 2,500 | 100.00 | 4% on 1,000 40.00 |
| 5,000 | on 3,500 | 140.00 | 2,000 80.00 |
| 6,000 | on 4,500 | 180.00 | 3,000 120.00 |

In addition to the regular 4% income tax, "super tax" will be levied on incomes according to the following scale.

| *Income Range* | *Super tax* |
|---|---|
| 6,000 to 10,000 | 4% + 2% |
| 10,000 to 20,000 | 4% + 5% |
| 20,000 to 30,000 | 4% + 8% |
| 30,000 to 50,000 | 4% + 10% |
| 50,000 to 100,000 | 4% + 15% |
| over 100,000 | 4% + 29% |

OPA A Box 1 I

**Taxes were placed on a great variety of items to raise money for the war.**

Tea and coffee
Telegrams
Liquor
Luxury goods (cars)
Tobacco
Income
Money Orders
Patent medicines
Transportation tickets
Cheques

OPA 1919 7

A special business profits tax was levied to raise money.

25% of net profits over 7%
50% of net profits over 15%
75% of net profits over 20%

## Children Can Help Too...

**"The Thrift Stamp"**

Boys and girls were encouraged to buy "Thrift Stamps" at school each week. Each stamp cost 25 cents and was stuck on a card which would hold 16 stamps or $4.00 worth. When filled the card was taken to the post office or a bank and exchanged for a "War Savings Stamp." If the "Stamp" was obtained by December 31, 1918 and held til January 1, 1924 it could be cashed in for $5.00. Interest was calculated at the rate of 4½% per year. PAC 1918 4696

## To the Children of Canada...

You have heard that "actions speak louder than words." Do you know what your actions say when you go to the Post Office and buy a Thrift Stamp or a War Savings Stamp? This is what they say, "I love my country. I have faith in the future of this Dominion. I am helping to make Canada great and prosperous. I am learning to save money." Every time you are tempted to spend money on something foolish or unnecessary, think how much more good that money would do if invested in a THRIFT STAMP or a WAR SAVINGS STAMP.

Did it not always thrill you to read, during the progress of the war, of the battles in which the Canadians went, all together, "over the top," in a grand charge against the enemy? Every boy and every girl can go "over the top" in a very real sense by saving money and lending it to Canada.

All together, then, for WAR SAVINGS STAMPS!

PAC 1918 4696

Canada War Thrift Book — 1918

## And donations.

The Canadian Red Cross

**What Goods were Shipped in 1917?**

The total number of packages shipped to England during 1917 was 54,957, including Hospital Supplies, Fruit, Maple Sugar and Tobacco, and other foods.

GENERAL SUPPLIES

| | |
|---|---|
| Handkerchiefs | 3,000,000 |
| Socks, pairs | 868,629 |
| Shirts | 193,480 |
| Wristlets | 11,473 |
| Pillow Slips | 212,070 |
| Blankets | 5,751 |
| Pillows and Pads | 175,034 |
| Towels | 482,758 |
| Night Shirts | 33,406 |
| Hospital Shirts | 14,265 |
| Mufflers | 18,695 |
| Sheets | 104,386 |
| Housewives | 6,575 |
| Sweaters | 18,600 |
| Pyjamas | 249,772 |
| Caps (Balaclava, Sleeping, Trench and Stretcher) | 96,644 |
| Hot Water Bottle Covers | 21,986 |
| Kit, Comfort and Personal Property Bags | 79,678 |
| Underwear | 15,908 |
| Dressing Gowns | 13,547 |
| Quilts | 7,286 |
| Slippers | 30,677 |
| Hospital Suits | 4,642 |
| Pneumonia Jackets | 32,360 |
| Surgeons' Coats | 5,236 |
| Bed Socks | 19,446 |
| Hot Water Bottles | 6,470 |
| Wash Cloths | 187,592 |
| Gloves | 4,160 |

Upon a moderate estimate the above mentioned goods value $4,500,000.

FOODS AND SUPPLIES

| | |
|---|---|
| Candies and Maple Sugar | 13 tons |
| Tomatoes | 200 cases |
| Catsup | 500 gals. |
| Peaches | 2,000 cases |
| Soups, etc. | 170 cases |
| Cigarettes | 4,500,000 |
| Plug and Chewing Tobacco | 4,000 lbs. |

Total value, about $32,000

SUPPLIES FOR HOSPITAL USE, OTHER THAN CLOTHING AND FOODS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Heating Stoves | 211 |
| Tobacco Pouches | 29 gross. |
| Razors, Safety and Straight | 39,000 |
| Anti-toxin Serum | 37,000 boxes |
| Gauze | 1,250,000 yds. |
| Absorbent Cotton | 11,000 lbs. |

Total value, $79,360.

SUPPLIES FOR KIT BAGS

10,000 each of Hair Brushes, Shaving Brushes, Tooth Brushes, Combs, Tooth Paste, Shaving Paste, Soap, Pencils, Paper, Envelopes — Total value, $7,350.

Total approximate value of goods sent overseas, $4,613,795.

Contributions of the Canadian Red Cross Society to London, England.

**Where Does the Money Come From?**

In 1917 the Head Office of the Society received from the Provinces of Canada the following sums: -

| | |
|---|---|
| Alberta | $107,725 |
| British Columbia | 84,883 |
| Manitoba | 230,197 |
| New Brunswick | 16,530 |
| Nova Scotia | 11,939 |
| Ontario | 555,299 |
| Prince Edward Island | 6,080 |
| Quebec | 167,854 |
| Saskatchewan | 332,978 |
| Also from Yukon Territory | 8,210 |
| United States | 76,143 |
| | $1,597,838 |

OPA C-5-4

# Conscription Crisis 1917

"Hitherto we have depended upon voluntary enlistment. I myself stated to Parliament that nothing but voluntary enlistment was proposed by the Government. But I return to Canada impressed at once with the extreme gravity of the situation and with a sense of responsibility for our further effort at the most critical period of the War. It is apparent to me that the voluntary system will not yield further substantial results."

J. C. Hopkins, *Canada at War*, p. 89

**Enlistment/Casualty Rate for 1917**

| *Month* | *Enlistments* | *Casualties* |
|---|---|---|
| January | 9 194 | 4 396 |
| February | 6 809 | 1 250 |
| March | 6 640 | 6 161 |
| April | 5 530 | 13 477 |
| May | 6 407 | 13 457 |
| June | 6 348 | 7 931 |
| July | 3 882 | 7 906 |
| August | 3 117 | 13 232 |
| September | 3 588 | 10 990 |
| October | 4 884 | 5 929 |
| November | 4 019 | 30 741 |
| December | 3 921 | 7 476 |

**Military Voters Act**

1. The vote was granted to all British subjects serving in the Canadian armed forces.
2. Provisions were made to conduct voting overseas.

**War Time Election Act**

1. The vote is granted to all wives, sisters, mothers, and daughters of soldiers who are serving or had served overseas.
2. The vote is denied to or taken from:
   - — those of enemy birth
   - — those of European birth speaking the enemy tongue.
   - — conscientious objectors

**Military Service Act**

1. All males between 18 and 45 are eligible for compulsory military service.
2. Exemptions were possible for
   - — conscientious objectors.
   - — persons working in essential war occupations.
   - — those doing work for which they had special qualifications.
   - — those for whom military service would cause special hardship.

## Sequence of Events

**April 9**
Heavy casualties during the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

**May 18**
Sir Robert Borden after his return from England announces the intention to introduce conscription.

**June 11**
Borden introduces Military Service Bill into Parliament.

**August 29**
Military Voters Act passes parliament.

**September 14**
War Time Election Act becomes law.

**September 26**
Military Service Act becomes law.

**October 12**
Union government formed from Conservatives and Liberals who left Laurier.

**November 25**
Union government announces sons engaged in production of food would be exempted from military service.

**December 17**
Election—Union Government wins landslide.

**January**
Conscription of men proceeds.

### SOME DOUKHOBORS SHOULD BE CALLED

**VEREGIN, Sask., Oct. 13.—Peter Veregin, leader of the Doukhobors, stated here yesterday that he considered Doukhobors who have broken away from the religious teachings of the old sect and who eat meat and drink wine, should be conscripted under the Military Service Act. He stated there were two sects of Doukhobors, one of which held to the old teachings an did not belong to any Empire. But the other sect had accepted homesteads from the government of Canada, which the first refused to do as it would have entailed citizenship. The ones who had taken homesteads should be subject to the laws of the country. They had changed their ways and had become British subjects, had firearms in their homes, and should defend the Empire.**

Something About the Strange Colony Which Lives at Brilliant, British Columbia — Simple Folk Who Think Killing Animals a Crime.

But, the agreement made with the government of Canada when they came here, says that they must not be called. The government purposes to hold to that agreement.

Peter Veregin, their leader, said recently that all his people need not have been exempted. He also said many had volunteered and were already at the front.

*Vancouver Sun*, 14 Oct. 1917

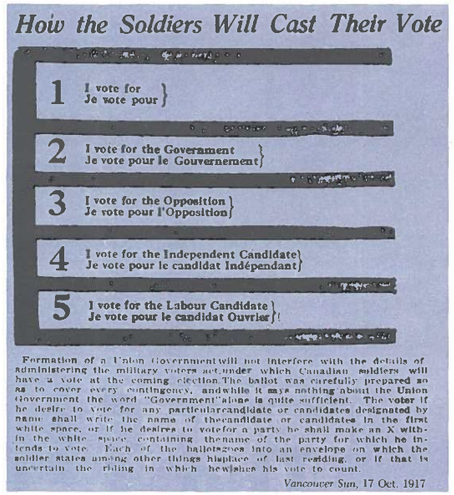
### Union Government is Formed: Liberals Enter War Cabinet at Ottawa on a 50–50 Basis.

OTTAWA, Oct. 12—Union government is a reality. The new cabinet will be formed of practically an equal number of Conservatives and Liberals, with Sir Robert Borden at the head. It had been anticipated throughout the afternoon that the new cabinet would be definitely sworn in during the evening. It was stated that the Liberals had agreed to come in and the question was now simply one of the distribution of the portfolios. But, as the evening wore on, the Liberals remained in conference at the Chateau Laurier and it was not until after 1 o'clock that N. W. Rowell, leader of the Ontario opposition, and Hon. J. A. Calder, of Regina, appeared at the cabinet council room. There, a statement was drafted which had the concurrence of the prime minister and of the representatives of the Liberals who attended the conference.



## Voting Overseas: 1917

### *How the Soldiers Will Cast Their Vote*


1 I vote for / Je vote pour
2 I vote for the Goverament / Je vote pour le Gouvernement
3 I vote for the Opposition / Je vote pour l'Opposition
4 I vote for the Independent Candidate / Je vote pour le candidat Indépendant
5 I vote for the Labour Candidate / Je vote pour le candidat Ouvrier

Formation of a Union Government will not interfere with the details of administering the military voters act under which Canadian soldiers will have a vote at the coming election. The ballot was carefully prepared so as to cover every contingency, and while it says nothing about the Union Government the word "Government" alone is quite sufficient. The voter if he desire to vote for any particular candidate or candidates designated by name shall write the name of the candidate or candidates in the first white space, or if he desires to vote for a party he shall make an X within the white space containing the name of the party for which he intends to vote. Each of the ballots goes into an envelope on which the soldier states among other things his place of last residing, or if that is uncertain the riding in which he wishes his vote to count.

*Vancouver Sun*, 17 Oct. 1917

Government!!!
win the war
A vote against the Government means
You are here for life
A vote for the Government means
Another man is coming to

By the spring of 1917 414,000 had enlisted from a male population (18-45) of 1,720,000 men, or approximately 30%.

J. C. Hopkins, *Canada at War*, p. 88

By December 31, 1917 the casualties sustained by the Canadian army were

| | |
|---|---|
| Killed | 25,138 |
| Wounded | 102,726 |
| P.O.W.'s | 2,740 |

J. C. Hopkins, *Canada at War*, p. 84

## Soldiers Are Now Casting Ballots; Polling Underway

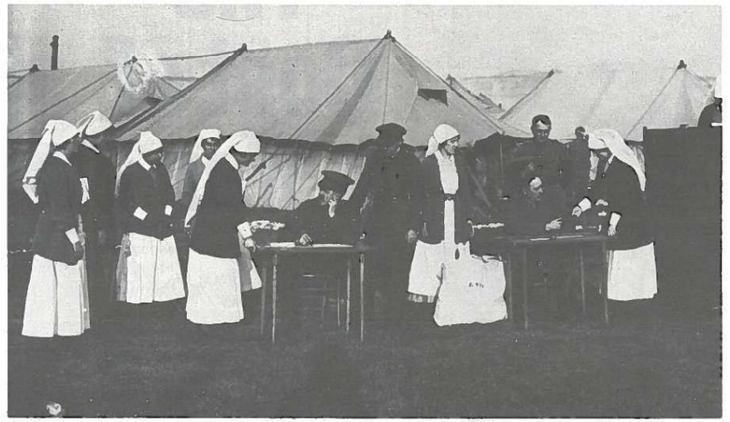
Votes of Men Proceeding Overseas Since Election Writs Were Issued Are Taken and Are Held in Ottawa.

VOTING AT THE FRONT WILL COMMENCE TODAY

Polls Will Be Held at Over Twenty Different Points in the United States; Ind Cast Ballots.

OTTAWA, Nov. 30—Polls... opened. The votes of all soldiers proceeding overseas since the issue of election writs have been taken under the emergency poll provision of the military voters' act. Already the ballot boxes from a great number of the polls are back in Ottawa; but they have not yet been opened. On the high seas also several electors proceeding overseas will be taken in the same way. All the formalities required by law were observed at the emergency polls. There were scrutineers present representing both the government and the opposition and notification when the polls would be held was sent to both political parties.

*Vancouver Sun*, 1 Dec. 1917



*Canadian Sisters vote at a Canadian Hospital in France*

## *DECISIVE VICTORY WON BY UNION GOVERNMENT THROUGHOUT DOMINION*

*Vancouver Sun*, 18 Dec. 1917

| *Province* | *Lib.* | *Liberal Union* | *Cons. Union* | *Gov't Civilian Vote* | *Opp. Civilian Vote* | *Gov't Soldiers' Vote* | *Opp. Soldiers' Vote* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P.E. Island | 2 | 0 | 2 | 10,450 | 12,224 | 2,775 | 434 |
| Nova Scotia | 4 | 3 | 9 | 40,985 | 48,831 | 10,699 | 1,474 |
| New Brunswick | 4 | 4 | 3 | 35,871 | 32,397 | 9,934 | 919 |
| Quebec | 62 | 1 | 2 | 61,808 | 240,504 | 14,206 | 2,927 |
| Ontario | 8 | 12 | 62 | 419,928 | 263,300 | 95,212 | 5,793 |
| Manitoba | 1 | 6 | 8 | 83,469 | 26,073 | 23,698 | 1,157 |
| Saskatchewan | 0 | 7 | 9 | 68,424 | 30,829 | 12,996 | 2,672 |
| Alberta | 1 | 4 | 7 | 60,399 | 48,865 | 19,675 | 1,055 |
| British Columbia | 0 | 1 | 12 | 59,944 | 40,050 | 26,461 | 2,059 |
| Yukon | 0 | 0 | 1 | 666 | 776 | 293 | 32 |
| | 82 | 38 | 115 | 841,944 | 744,849 | 215,849 | 18,522 |

J. C. Hopkins, *Canada at War*, p. 332

Under the terms of the Military Service Act Quebec was allowed 89 575 exemptions and Ontario 94 197.

**Results of the Military Service Act.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Class 1 Registrations | 401,882 |
| Exempted (job, health, agriculture) | 221,949 |
| Unapprehended defaulters | 24,139 |
| Available but not called | 26,225 |
| Enlisted in British forces | 8,445 |
| Taken on but later removed | 16,108 |
| Discharged—variety of reasons | 8,637 |
| On Strength in C.E.F. Nov. 11, 1918 | 96,379 |
| Proceeded overseas | 47,509 |
| Taken on strength in units in France | 24,132 |
| Reached the front lines | unknown |

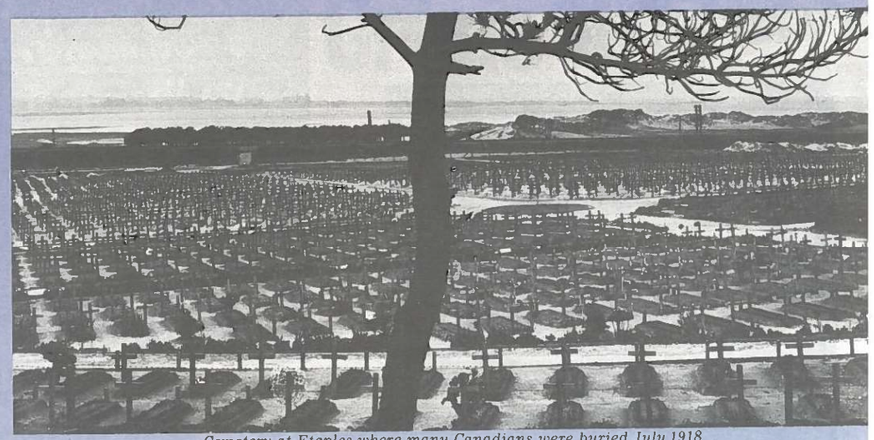
G. W. L. Nicholson, *Canadian Expeditionary Force*, p. 551

MERCHANT SHIPPING LOSSES

Allied Losses (REGISTERED TONNAGE)

| | |
|---|---|
| British Empire | 9,055,000 tons |
| Italy | 862,000 |
| France | 807,000 |
| United States | 531,000 |
| Greece | 415,000 |
| Japan | 270,000 |
| Belgium | 105,000 |
| Brazil | 31,000 |
| Total Allied Losses | 12,076,000 |
| Neutral Losses* | |
| Norway | 1,172,000 |
| Sweden | 264,000 |
| Denmark | 245,000 |
| Spain | 238,000 |
| Holland | 229,000 |
| Total Neutral Losses | 2,148,000 |
| TOTAL LOSSES | 14,224,000 tons. |

T. N. Dupuy, *Military History of WWI*, p. 92



*Cemetery at Etaples where many Canadians were buried July 1918*

# The Cost of War

They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not wither them, nor the years condemn;
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We shall remember them. *Lawrence Binyon*

**To this hour I cannot think of the heroism of our soldiers without wonder—without wonder and reverence. There has never been in the history of mankind such a courage as theirs. Never! Think what it was. The least of us is capable of a flash of valour. In a sudden emergency the meanest of us might be brave. Once or twice in his life a coward might do noble things. But think what these men did. It was not for an hour, nor for a day, nor for a week, nor for a month, nor for a year that they did fine things.**

**Year after year their life was a fine thing. It was not valour they displayed; it was not even heroism; it was something so new and terrible, so undreamed of, that man has created no new word for it. I try to find some word to define it, to suggest it; I can't. The nearest word I can get is Endurance. They were in hell every day of their lives, and they endured. They were in peril of death, and worse than death, day after day, night after night; and they endured. They were exposed to all the nerve-shattering rage of artillery, artillery which rived the soil like an earthquake, which hurled the bodies of the dead into the air, and flung the bodies of the living into a deeper sepulchre; and they endured. They went out into the darkness to storm the trenches of the enemy, to destroy machine-gun nests, to break a line of fire the very thunders of which deafened the men; and they endured. But something more. That is what haunts me. They endured for all these years a manner of life utterly unnatural—utterly unnatural, and horrible beyond the expression of words.** Canada, House of Commons, *Debates*, 3 Mar. 1919.

It is indeed pitiful to see the ruin that this war has caused, as all around you can see towns and villages all reduced to ruins, and it will be many years before this country is restored to anything like it was before the outbreak of war. OPA 1916 44

The true horror of World War I was not in its maimed and killed, not in the length of the war, and not in its barbarism or atrocities — it was in the fact that *so many men died and achieved nothing by it.* R. M. Watt, *Dare Call It Treason*, p. 84

*Not all of the Canadian dead were buried in marked graves*

After a battle where the deaths mount into the thousands some field will be shut off for a cemetery and there the bodies are buried, each grave receiving some kind of a cross wherever it is possible, but here no names can be attached. There will be many homes in which there will be vacant places and where it will not even be known where the absent ones are buried.

T. H. Russell, *World's Greatest War*, p. 361

*Aside from the destruction of orchards, mines were often flooded before the enemy evacuated or withdrew from a position. March 1917*

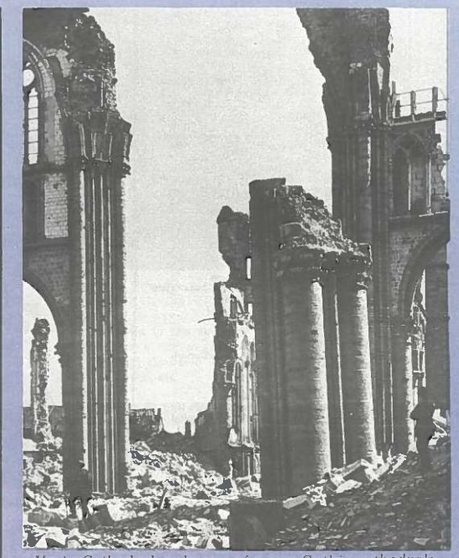
BURIED ON THE FIELD

The bodies of the dead in this war were not, with occasional exceptions, returned to their relatives, but were buried on the field and where numbers required it, in common graves. Valuables, papers and mementoes were taken from the bodies and made up in little packets to be sent to the relatives, and the dead soldiers, each wrapped in his canvas shelter tent, as shroud, were laid friend and foe, side by side in long trenches in the ground for which they had contested. T. H. Russell, *World's Greatest War*, pp. 274-275

THE COST OF WORLD WAR I

| | Total Force Mobilized | Military Battle Deaths | Military Wounded | Civilian Dead | Prisoners & Missing | Economic & Financial Cost |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | PEOPLE | | | | | $ MILLION |
| ALLIES | | | | | | |
| France | 8,410,000 | 1,357,800 | 4,266,000 | 40,000 | 537,000 | 49,877 |
| British Empire | 8,904,467 | 908,371 | 2,090,212 | 30,633(4) | 191,652 | 51,975 |
| Russia | 12,000,000 | 1,700,000 | 4,950,000 | 2,000,000(5) | 2,500,000 | 25,600 |
| Italy | 5,615,000 | 462,391 | 953,886 | (6) | 600,000 | 18,143 |
| United States | 4,355,000 | 50,385 | 205,690 | (6) | 4,500 | 32,320 |
| Belgium | 267,000 | 13,716 | 44,686 | 30,000 | 34,659 | 10,195 |
| Serbia | 707,343 | 45,000 (7) | 133,148 | 650,000 | 152,958 | 2,400 |
| Montenegro | 50,000 | 3,000 | 10,000 | (6) | 7,000 | (6) |
| Rumania | 750,000 | 335,706 | 120,000 | 275,000 | 80,000 | 2,601 |
| Greece | 230,000 | 5,000 | 21,000 | 132,000 | 1,000 | 556 |
| Portugal | 100,000 | 7,222 | 13,751 | (6) | 12,318 | (6) |
| Japan | 800,000 | 300 | 907 | (6) | 3 | 232 |
| ALLIED TOTALS | 42,188,810 | 4,888,891 | 12,809,280 | 3,157,633 | 4,121,090 | 193,899 |
| CENTRAL POWERS | | | | | | |
| Germany | 11,000,000 | 1,808,545 | 4,247,143 | 760,000(8) | 1,152,800 | 58,072 |
| Austria-Hungary | 7,800,000 | 922,500 | 3,620,000 | 300,000(9) | 2,200,000 | 23,706 |
| Turkey | 2,850,000 | 325,000 | 400,000 | 2,150,000(10) | 250,000 | 3,445 |
| Bulgaria | 1,200,000 | 75,844 (11) | 152,390 | 275,000 | 27,029 | 1,015 |
| CENTRAL POWERS TOTALS | 22,850,000 | 3,131,889 | 8,419,533 | 3,485,000 | 3,629,829 | 86,238 |
| GRAND TOTALS | 65,038,810 | 8,020,780 | 21,228,813 | 6,642,633 | 7,750,919 | 280,137 |

PAC 1921 5080



*Ypres Cathedral, only one of many Gothic cathedrals destroyed during the First War. July 1916*

What was the extent of the national military effort and the price of the Canadian achievement? The records show that 619,636 Canadian men and women served with Canada's army in the First World War. (Canadian naval forces numbered some ten thousand; and about 24,000, many of whom came from the Canadian Expeditionary Force, fought with the British air forces.) The sacrifice in lives was heavy. Of those who did not return 51,748 Canadian soldiers and nursing sisters were killed in action or died of their wounds. The addition of 7,796 who died of disease or injury, or who were accidentally killed, brings the total of fatal army casualties to 59,544 all ranks. For all services the total was 60,661, or 9.28 per cent of all who enlisted. The total number of Canadian army casualties of all categories in all theatres was 232,494. L. M. Frost, *Fighting Men*, pp. 167-168

Canadian Casualties in the First War

| | |
|---|---|
| Killed in action | 34,925 |
| Missing and presumed dead | 4,430 |
| Died of wounds | 11,260 |
| Died at sea | 133 |
| Died of disease, injury, accident | 7,796 |
| Wounded | 126,595 |
| Gassed | 11,572 |
| Injuries | 34,784 |

G. W. L. Nicholson, *Canadian Expeditionary Force*, p. 548

# The Survivors

## Institutions In Canada
### For the Treatment and Training of Returned Soldiers

**NOVA SCOTIA**
SYDNEY–Convalescent Hospitals
HALIFAX–Clearing Depot
Industrial Re-education Centre
Conval. Hospitals School for the Blind
KENTVILLE–Tuberculosis Sanatorium

**NEW BRUNSWICK**
ST. JOHN–Conval. Home Clearing Depot
FREDERICTON–Conval. Home
RIVER GLADE–Sanatorium

**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**
CHARLOTTETOWN–Conval. Hospital
NORTH WILTSHIRE–Sanatorium

**QUEBEC**
QUEBEC–Clearing Depot Conval. Hospital
LAKE EDWARD–Sanatorium
MONTREAL–Industrial Re-education Centre
Conval. Hospitals
STE. AGATHE–Sanatoria
STE. ANNE DE BELLEVUE–Conval. Hospital

**ONTARIO**
OTTAWA–Conval. Home
KINGSTON–Conval. Hospital Sanatorium
COBOURG–Conval. Hospital for Nerve Cases
WHITBY–Conval. Hospital
TORONTO–Industrial Re-educationCentre
Orthopaedic Centre & Hospital
Artificial Limb Factory
Functional Re-education Centre
Home for Incurables Conval. Hospitals
Officers' Conval. Hospital
NEWMARKET–Hospital for Insane
HAMILTON–Conval. Hospitals Sanatorium
BURLINGTON–Conval. Hospital
ST. CATHARINES–Conval. Hospital
GUELPH–Conval. Hospital and Re-education Centre
KITCHENER–Sanatorium
LONDON–Conval. Hospital Sanatorium
PORT ARTHUR–Conval. Home

**MANITOBA**
WINNIPEG–Conval. Hospital
Industrial Re-education Centre
Receiving Depot I.O.D.E. Hospital
Officers' Conval. Home
NINETTE–Sanatorium

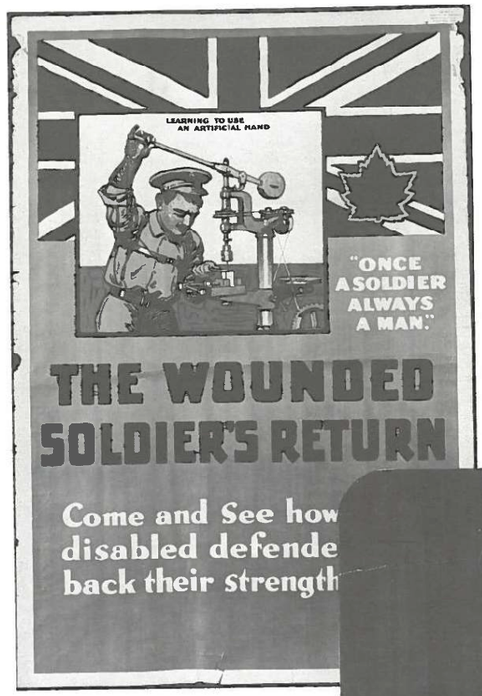
**SASKATCHEWAN**
REGINA–Conval. Hospital Sanatorium
MOOSE JAW–Conval. Hospital
QU' APPELLE–Sanatorium
SASKATOON–Industrial Re-education Centre
Conval. Hospital
PRINCE ALBERT–Sanatorium

**ALBERTA**
CALGARY–Industrial Re-education Centre
Conval. Hospitals Receiving Depot
Sanatorium
WETASKIWIN–Conval. Home
EDMONTON–Conval. Hospitals
FRANK–Sanatorium
KANANASKIS–Sanatorium

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**
KAMLOOPS–Sanatorium
BALFOUR–Sanatorium
VANCOUVER–Mil. Hospital Conval. Homes
ESQUIMALT(Victoria)– Conval. Hospital
SIDNEY–Conval. Home
QUALICUM–Conval. Home

"Employers are often eager to show patriotism and will employ an amputee, but permanent employment is often difficult."
PAC 1917 4608 The War Cripple–1917

**Of the soldiers who returned**
**70,000 were disabled**
**196 were blind**
**3,500 were amputees**


LEARNING TO USE AN ARTIFICIAL HAND
"ONCE A SOLDIER ALWAYS A MAN."
THE WOUNDED SOLDIER'S RETURN
Come and See how
disabled defende
back their strength

By December 1920
108,061 soldiers had been treated for injuries in the hospitals.
50,521 were passed for vocational training.
109,493 soldiers were placed in civilian jobs.
73,620 soldiers were put on pension.
PAC 1921 5080

Disability pensions were available to help the veterans who were permanently injured. In addition pensions were also available to their dependents.

| | |
|---|---|
| Soldier (total disability) | $600.00 per year |
| Widow | 480.00 per year |
| Parent | 480.00 per year |
| Children | 96.00—144.00 per year |
| Orphan | 192.00—288.00 per year |
| Helplessness grant | 300.00 per year |

OPA 1919 7

The yearly scale of pension in 1917 for a totally disabled soldier.

| | |
|---|---|
| Brigadier-General | $2,700.00 |
| Colonel | 1,890.00 |
| Major | 1,280.00 |
| Captain | 1,000.00 |
| Lieutenant | 720.00 |
| Sergeant | 510.00 |
| Rank and file | 480.00 |

PAC 1917 4573

Annual Widow's Allowances: 1916

| Husband's Rank | Widow's Pension | With One Child | With Two Children |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lt. Colonel | 547.50 | 730.00 | 912.50 |
| Major | 438.00 | 584.00 | 730.00 |
| Captain | 328.50 | 438.00 | 547.00 |
| Lieutenant | 219.00 | 292.00 | 365.00 |
| Sergeant | 147.50 | 197.10 | 246.37 |
| Private | 109.50 | 146.00 | 182.50 |

PAC 1916 4313

**Vocational Training for War Cripples in Canada.**
motor mechanics
machine tool work
carpentry
electrical wiring (inside)
telegraphy
cobbing
operate agricultural tractors
general farming
book keeping
PAC 1917 4608

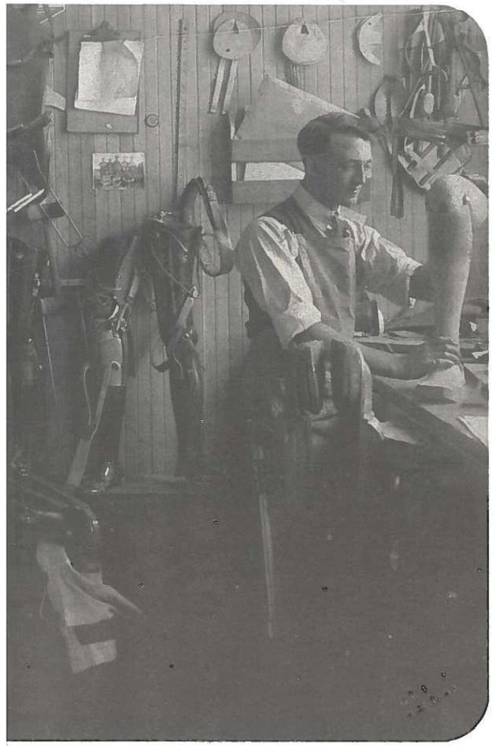
"Each limb must be made to individual specifications and fitted to the stump of the patient... A stump shrinks for some time after amputation so it may be wise to provide a soldier with a temporary limb... later with a permanent limb."
PAC 1917 4608 The War Cripple–1917.

A soldier will be awarded a pension in direct proportion to his disability.

| | |
|---|---|
| Class I | Total disability — 100% pension.<br>Loss of both eyes.<br>Loss of both hands or all fingers and thumbs.<br>Loss of both legs above the knee.<br>Insanity. |
| Class II | 80% disability — 80% of full pension.<br>Loss of one hand and one foot.<br>Loss of both feet. |
| Class III | Disability of 60% to 80%.<br>Loss of one hand.<br>Loss of leg at or above knee.<br>Loss of tongue.<br>Loss of nose. |
| Class IV | Disability of 40% to 60%.<br>Loss of one eye.<br>Loss of one foot.<br>Total deafness.<br>Loss of both thumbs. |
| Class V | Disability of 20%-40%<br>Loss of one thumb.<br>Anchylosis of elbow, knee, wrist, shoulder or ankle. |
| Class VI | Disability of under 20%.<br>Total deafness in one ear.<br>Partial deafness in both ears.<br>Loss of index or other finger. |

PAC 1917 4573

**Post war ailments and medical needs of the veterans.**
Pulmonary tuberculosis
Permanent insanity
Orthopaedic appliances
Dental care
Permanent care for incurables
Recurrance of wartime disabilities.
OPA 1919 7



**Returned soldiers were trained in over 196 different occupations.**
PAC 4707

.....Suffering from spasms of dizziness and pain in the skull, deafness of both ears, the hearing in the left ear being only one-third of normal and in the right ear slightly less, from injury received when blown out of a trench by shell explosion at Ypres. Disability permanent. Incapacity 50 per cent. Awarded $16 a month for a year, etc.

.....Suffering from loss of right eye, loss of middle and ring fingers of right hand, and loss of power of flexion of first and fore-fingers, from explosions of shrapnel in action at Messignes. Disability permanent. Incapacity two-thirds. Awarded $24 a month for a year.

.....Suffering from nervousness, continuous tremor of limbs, and body, insomnia, palpitation, and loss of weight from shock or shell explosion in trenches. Incapacity total for six months, Awarded $40 a month for six months, etc.

.....Widow of .....who died at the Military Hospital, Halifax, from dilatation of the heart, following acute pneumonia developed while he was on active service. Her sworn statement shows she is 44 years of age and has no family. Awarded full pension so long as she does not re-marry.
PAC 4587

The Soldier Land Settlement plan was set up to help returning soldiers get established in farming. A soldier could apply and if accepted would qualify for a free land grant as well as a loan to get started. By December of 1920
Number soldiers applied 60,827
Number accepted 43,765

Area of free land granted 2,500,000 acres.
Area of land purchased 2,354,799 acres.

Number of loans approved 20,624.
Value of loans approved $84,727,243.63

Loans granted by province.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| P.E.I. | 329 | Manitoba | 3319 |
| N.S. | 381 | Saskatchewan | 5136 |
| N.B. | 542 | Alberta | 6058 |
| P.Q. | 363 | Br. Columbia | 2975 |
| Ontario | 1521 | | |

PAC 1921 5080

To qualify for free land and low interest loans under the Soldier Settlement Act a man must
— take up residence on the land.
— make farming his job.
— have an honourable discharge.
— be physically fit.
PAC 1923 5167

Under the Soldier Settlement plan the average cost per acre of land was

| | |
|---|---|
| Ontario | $40.00 |
| Br. Columbia | 48.63 |
| Saskatchewan | 17.20 |

PAC 1923 5167

"I was gassed for a few seconds at Valenciennes in 1918 and became very ill. After a week in the hospital I was able to return to the front. When the war was over I got a job in an office but by the summer of 1925 I fainted at work several times. My doctor said it was because of the poison in my system caused by my "bad" bottom teeth and that I would have to have them pulled. Back on the job the fainting continued so the top ones were pulled too. This did not help me at all. In 1930 I was finally sent to a doctor in Toronto who asked me if I had been in the Great War. He questioned me further and discovered that I had been gassed in '18. He recommended a partial disability pension, but by 1935 the fainting spells became so frequent that I was put on full pension and have not worked since.
I never could marry and have been living alone for over forty years."
*Charlie, a "vet" of the Great War.*